

COLOUR FEATURES: PAUL OKON & EDDIE KRNGEVIC

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER

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OLYMPIC GAMES UPDATE

FIFA ALL-STARS v BRAZIL OLYMPIC

Editorial

Giving credit where credit's due, let's all applaud Channel 7 for giving us some live soccer from the Atlanta Olympics.

In case you missed it, last Thursday's crucial game between Australia and Spain was right there, in the lounge room, on free to air Channel 7. This is not the last live coverage from the USA.

The two men's semi-finals come in between 8am and 10 am on Wednesday and Thursday July 31 and the horse's birthday — August 1.

Saturday at the same time we can see the Bronze medal decider for third and fourth place. In Barcelona this is where the Australian team was beaten.

Sunday, a little earlier this time, from 5.45am we can all sit down and enjoy the final, the battle for Olympic Gold.

Fans of the Women's game can see that final, or Gold medal round, between 11.30 and 12.30 on the morning of Friday August 2.

All this and no Australian team in it. A rarity indeed in recent telecasting of Olympic competition.

The jingoism and self interest was often overwhelming but hopefully that is a thing of the past. Maybe, just maybe, the true enthusiast of a sport can sit back and enjoy unbiased coverage.

Good old Auntie — ABC has given us reasonable coverage from radio. The snag is that Graham 'Smokey' Dawson seems to be lacking in a sound understanding of the World Game.

Let us hope that the 2000 Olympics can be covered by commentators knowledgeable in the history, lore, nuances and Laws of the Game.

The local coverage of soccer (more properly the football competition, according to the International Olympic Committee or I.O.C.) will be taken by overseas countries directly from what is transmitted from the Sydney Games.

Most English speaking countries will opt to take the Australian pictures and commentary, so it has to be excellent. No Aussie Rules or Rugby League callers allowed.

There could possibly be some opportunities for new voices as there will be 32 men's games and 16 women's, going on current arrangements, to cover. They won't all be in Sydney either.

Finally let's hope that Channel 7 put together a package of highlights of the 1996 Olympic Football Tournament and make it available on one video tape. Then we'll get to see just how Japan beat Brazil.

BY HENRY WIZGIER

A small milestone was recently reached for Australian — or should I say Oceanian football, when an Australian player was selected for a World All-Star representative team.

Okay so let's not be naive — Ned Zelic was picked as the token Oceania representative, just as Kazu Miura of Japan was in there to represent Asia, while John Harkes of DC United flew the flag for CONCACAF.

It was thanks to their geographic origins that these three were invited, because on all known current form none of them should have been there.

Our Ned Zelic 'the wanderer' who up to last week was believed to be on

the payroll at Auxerre the French champions no less (and Cup Winners to boot), hasn't kicked a serious football for ages.

He played like it too — choosing the catholic method of playing it safe with a stream of balls which he received from Ginola, Balakov and anyone else who noticed the acre of space the Brazillians generously left for him down the right flank.

Unfortunately, Ned reciprocated the favour once too often, which is a dangerous thing to do with Brazillians because they like to take the utmost advantage of space and score goals.

When Bebeto got the ball out on the left and brought it into the middle our Ned forgot he was right back for the day and took the bait, thus leaving the proverbial

acre of space for Roberto Carlos to run into, receive the ball, take it into the box unchallenged, line up his shot and bury it into the bottom far corner of the net — thank you very much.

Now don't say that Ned is not a right back because in this age of Total Football only a linesman can get away with the excuse that he was being played out of position. As for the positive side of this memoragble day for Aussie football — just the fact that there was an



Australian on the same pitch as those afore-mentioned plus George Weah, Abede Pele, Jurgen Klinsmann, Lothar Matthaus, Marcel Dassailly etc. etc. etc. is a step in the right direction — even if he was only there as a token gesture. I don't know whether Ned is a 'namedroper' but if he is, he'll have enough material there to bore the pants off people at parties for years to come.

I posed the question recently as to what favours Charlie Dempsey has done for Australian football by forcing us into a shotgun marriage with that 'football desert', Oceania?

I thought that direct entry into the Under 17s World Championships was the only one, but this FIFA All-Stars proved me wrong.

Having our own CONFEDERATION means that we will also have at least one representative in all FIFA charity, friendly, fun-fixtures like this — even if it is for only half a game.

Still, it's better than having none.

For the record and those who missed this unspectacular 'too-friendly' work-out for the Brazillians and pre-season get-together for the All-Stars, here are the details.

The game was in aid of a charity — 'SOS Childrens



Bebeto: Scored one and helped create Brazil's other goal.



Michael Laudrup: A Dane in the FIFA All-Stars.

Villages' which was founded in 1949 and consists of 350 villages world-wide in 125 countries for orphaned, abandoned and abused children.

200,000 children are looked after, educated and finally trained for work. Jurgen Klinsmann is FIFA's ambassador to the SOS Childrens Villages.

The match was played at the Giants stadium in New Jersey, home of both New York grid-iron clubs Giants and Jets and here come the beaut part — the crowd for this 'soccer' game surpassed anything that the helmeted gorillas have ever pulled in.

In fact the 78,416 attendance for this game was bettered only by that famous ex-Polish amateur goalkeeper and Wisla Krakow supporter — His Holiness Pope John Paul II — amen!

BRAZIL OLYMPIC 2
Bebeto (47)
Roberto Carlos (77)
FIFA ALL-STARS 1
Klinsmann (68)
Teams:
FIFA ALL-STARS:
(Coach Richard Moeller Nielson).
Jorge Campos, LA

Galaxy/Mexico.

Subs.: Nelson Tapia, Universidad/Chile.

John Harkes (DC United/USA), Fernando Hierro (Real Madrid/Spain), Lothar Matthaus (Bayern Munich/Germany), Marcel Dessailly (Milan/France), Mark Fish (Lazio/South Africa).

Subs.: Ned Zelic (Auxerre/Australia), Fernando Couto (Parma/Portugal).

Fernando Redondo (Real Madrid/Argentina), Michael Laudrup (Real Madrid/Denmark), David Ginola (Newcastle Utd/France).

Subs.: Abede Pele (Torino/Ghana), Krassimir Balakov (Stuttgart/Bulgaria).

Jurgen Klinsmann (Bayern Munich/Germany), Kazu Miura (Verdy Kawasaki/Japan).

Subs.: George Weah (Milan/Liberia).

BRAZIL OLYMPIC
(Coach Mario Zagallo)

Dida:
Ze Maria, Ronaldo, Aldair, Roberto Carlos.

Subs.: Ze Elias Juninho, Amaral, Flavio, Rivaldo Savio, Bebeto.

Subs.: Ronaldinho.



Jurgen Klinsman: His goal for the All-Stars was a gem.

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GOOD OIL GOOD OIL GOOD

NSW Soccer Federation next Monday at the Melita Stadium, in the Eagles Nest Restaurant, at 6.30pm, will hold its crucial official draw for the 1996 Waratah Cup, Round 6.

For Round 6 is the point of entry to the Cup where the six NSW and ACT based Ericsson League teams come into the knock out competition.



The big six Ericsson League outfits coming into the Cup are of course, Canberra Cosmos, Marconi, Newcastle Breakers, Sydney Olympic, Sydney United and Wollongong City.

The 10 sides from the various NSW and ACT State Leagues that still remain in the Cup are: Bathurst '75, Canterbury Marrickville, Highfields Wolves, Hills United, Parramatta Eagles, Rockdale Suns, Sutherland Shire, Sydney Cosmos, Warringah Dolphins and Weston Creek.

Weston Creek won through from the ACT and southern NSW entrants. Highfields shocked fellow Hunter club, Adamstown Rosebud to qualify from Northern NSW.

Marconi who have been invited to tour China, Shanghai in fact, on August 20th, will find their tour more than a little interesting.

The City of Shanghai last week had no less than 12 people executed in the one day for various crimes committed by 'citizens'.

No yellow cards at all. Shanghai's Police have recently embarked on a severe crack-down on various gambling haunts, discos and underground drug centres throughout the City flexing its law-muscle left and right, without mercy.

Brisbane Strikers remain as still the only club in the Ericsson League that has not yet appointed a coach to fill the vacuum left by the departed Bruce Stowell.

The Strikers however, have once again, vowed that it would make such an announcement sometime this week (possibly today Tuesday).

It has been well understood that their high profile, ace striker, Frank Farina, has been repeatedly approached by the Queensland administrators to take on the position.

But it is also very well understood that Farina, who is 32, does not relish the position, yet.

Farina is still at his best on the pitch and taking over as a coach would only saddle his form with the huge and unenviable heavy responsibility of being 'the boss'.

Names such as the ever-green Frank Pimblett, former international centre-back Gary McDowall, international striker Eddie Krncevic, as well as Farina, have all been bandied around for the hot seat.

But to date no one has surfaced.

Whoever eventually does takeover, will have a real job on his hands.

It is understood that the Strikers' financial situation is measurably strained for now.

But many key players have already departed.

Midfield maestro Jason Polak has rejoined South Melbourne, sweeper or central-marker Stevie Jackson has been released, dynamic attacking-defender Chris Zoricich has left the club to go to England, Craig Williams has gone to Singapore, and giant defender Alan Hunter is in doubt on just what he is going to do. Sean Cranney could be Adelaide City bound.

Powerful and experienced striker, Rod Brown, was almost lost to Sydney United three weeks ago.

United's coach Branko Culina, urgently wanted an experienced striker to solve his team's goal-drought of last season.

But Brown has decided to stay in Brisbane and has signed up for one more season.

Pre-season training for Brisbane Strikers starts this Thursday night.

But it may not be as bad as it all seems on the surface.

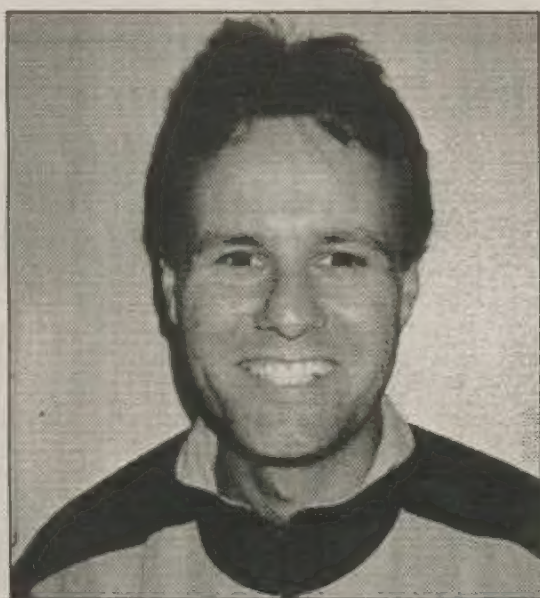
Every Brisbane Strikers' player, one week after the end of last season, was 'screen-tested' individually.

Injuries sustained during last season were constantly and progressively recorded on

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



Miron Bleiberg: Has ambitions to take Brisbane Lions into Ericsson League.



Jean Paul de Marigny: Marconi's skipper to lead tour to China.

charts.

An individual gym-programme was then made out from all these compiled charts for each player to adhere to during the off-season.

It was hoped that during the off-season the Strikers would sign at least three top names.

Targetted names were Kimon Taliadoros, Craig Foster and the current champions (Melbourne Knights) captain, Andrew Marth.

Brisbane has missed out on all three.

Now the Strikers will concentrate on bringing into their League squad many young, home-grown players to cover the gaps.

CAUSING some

simultaneous concern to the Brisbane Strikers' administrators, are the Brisbane Lions from the Queensland State League.

The high-flying and ambitious Lions, coached by the astute Miron Bleiberg in

the Queensland XXXX State League, have great aspirations of gaining entry into the Ericsson League in the near future.

Having lost just three matches of their 21 played to date, the Lions are currently roaring towards the Queensland championship.

With extensive development well underway to their Club grounds and estimated at over \$2.5 million, plus being backed up by a sound and stable administration, Brisbane Lions are quietly preparing a strong challenge for entry to the National League.

Port Kembla Soccer Club is holding a special Sportsmen's Dinner on Friday, August 16th.

The constantly expanding Port Kembla, coached by former flamboyant Australian World Cup striker, Adrian ('Noddy') Alston, last season won the 'treble'.

The Dinner venue is the picturesque 'Harbour Front

Restaurant' near the Novotel.

Tickets which are \$50 each, include a three course sumptuous meal plus all drinks (Dom Perignon excluded).

They go on sale from today and may be ordered by contacting Club official Vince on 014-490-695.

Australia's Olympic Soccer team over the weekend moved into the Olympic Village in Atlanta from Orlando.

Many of Eddie Thomson's Australian Olympic squad have already departed from the USA to return to their European and English clubs to report for their pre-season team training.

Euro-based players such

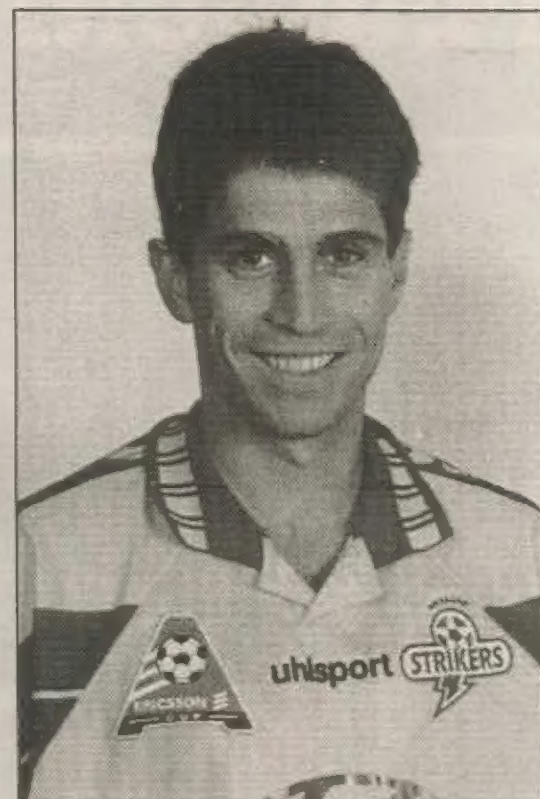
as Stevie Horvat, Mark Viduka, Steve Corica and Aurelio Vidmar, have all returned to their respective clubs in Europe and England.

The new Fax Number at the Olympic Village is 00-15-1-404-575-4292.

It is envisaged that the remaining players still in Atlanta will stay behind for the Soccer Final as well as the spectacular and very emotional Closing Ceremony.

Thomson has now completed his involvement with the Olyroos. Raul Blanco takes over. It is Blanco's task to lead the Australian Olympians to Sydney 2000.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@



Frank Farina: Strikers' ace-goalscorer doubtful about the coaching-job.



Adrian 'Noddy' Alston: Coach at Port Kembla.

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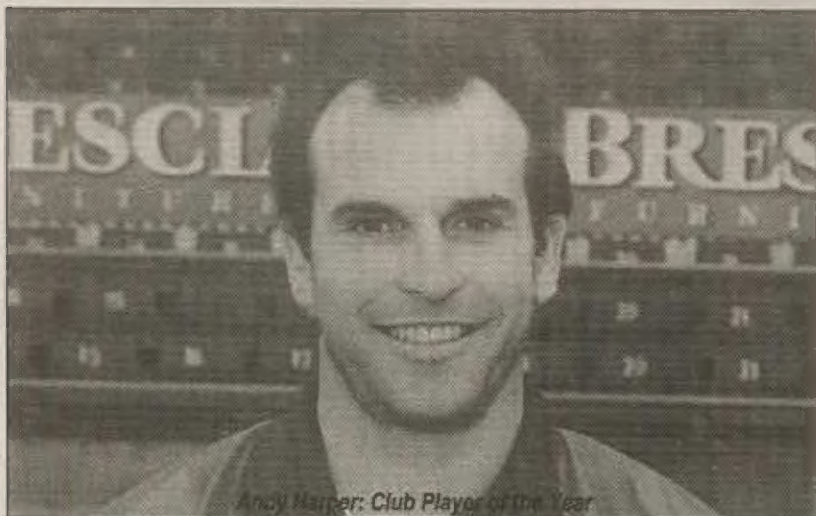
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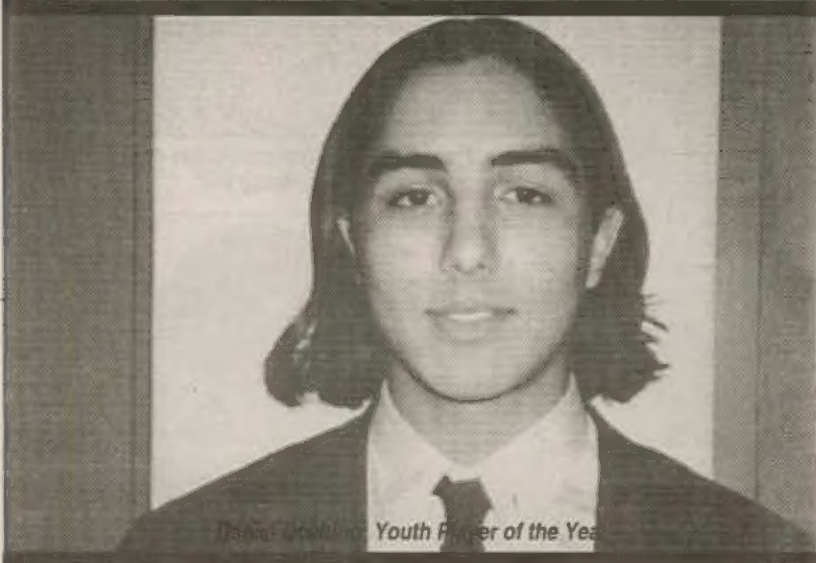


Raul Blanco: Will take the Olympic side into Sydney 2000.

MARCONI'S PRESENTATION NIGHT



Andy Harper: Club Player of the Year



Daniel Uccchino: Youth Player of the Year



Matthew Bingley: Supporters' Player of the Year



Manfred Schaefer: Signs up for another year at the Club

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Club Marconi, in their customary outstanding style, staged a spectacular affair to mark their annual end-of-season 'Presentation Night' that was attended by well over 400.

For the first time ever, the Marconi Supporters 'Player Of The Year' award was made.

This award was taken out by Marconi's mobile midfielder or defender, Matthew Bingley who topped the poll by a massive 142 votes from central marker Dominic Longo and galloping striker Andy Harper.

However the Club's major award, 'Marconi's Player Of The Year', and voted on by the coaches, was most deservedly won by tenacious striker Andy Harper, edging out attacking right midfielder Luke Casserly and defender Longo.

The 27 year old Harper, easily had his best season ever, since graduating into the senior ranks of the National League in 1987 with the now defunct Sydney City.

The tireless worker and real team-player Harper, moved to St George after Sydney City had closed down.

Finally Harper joined Marconi five seasons ago at a bargain fee and has proven his worth with outstanding regularity ever since.

Harper's performance throughout last season was nothing short of magnificent.

Not only did Harper nail the target on 14 occasions to lift Marconi to be the second highest scoring side in the League, but the unyielding marksman constantly rolled up his sleeves to set up at least another 17 goals for others.

More remarkably was the fact that Harper in his early days in the National League played as an overlapping defender, a vast contrast to his position today.

But Harper unfortunately was not at the Club to receive his coveted award, having flown to Hayman Island for a short holiday with his wife.

But Club Marconi enterprisingly had made special arrangements for Harper as well as the guests on the night.

The Club set up a telephone hook-up with Hayman Island and made the presentation to him from the Club's stage.

Club Marconi arranged yet another international telephonic hook-up, this time across to the USA to speak to their Olympic squad member, Luke Casserly who 'was runner-up to Harper as 'Player of the Year'.

The Youth team's award for 'Player of The Year' was won in fine style by classy libero, the 21 year old Daniel Uccchino.

Schaefer signs up for another term

The Club's senior coach Manfred Schaefer has signed another contract to remain with Marconi.

Schaefer's reliable assistant, Lee Sterry, who took out the 'treble' with the Youth team, also will remain with Marconi for another season.



Supporters' Player of the Year

Presentation Night



Andy Harper (L) with Gerry Vee (R) after winning the premier prize trophy



Port Kaituma Dancers entertaining the guests

MARCONI FAIRFIELD YOUTH LEAGUE TRIAL DATES U/19



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Mon 5 & Wed August 7
Mon 12 & Wed August 14
Mon 19 & Wed August 21
Mon 26 & Wed August 28
TIME: 6.00pm start

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ATLANTA 96 — FOOTBALL — MENS

Group A (Washington/Birmingham)

PORTUGAL	2	TUNISIA	0
Alfonso Martins (12, 87)			
ARGENTINA	3	USA	1
Lopez (35)		Reyna (1)	
Crespo (56)			
Simeone (90)			
ARGENTINA	1	PORTUGAL	1
Ariel Ortega (45)		Munoz (70)	
USA	2	TUNISIA	0
Kirovski (38)			
Maisonneuve (90)			
PORTUGAL	1	USA	1
Alves (4)		Munoz (90)	
ARGENTINA	1	TUNISIA	1
Daniel Ortega (6)		Mkucher (75)	

FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
ARGENTINA	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
PORTUGAL	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
USA	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Tunisia	3	0	1	2	1	5	1

Group B — (Orlando/Miami)

SPAIN	1	SAUDI ARABIA	0
Garcia (80)			
FRANCE	2	AUSTRALIA	0
Pires (12)			
Maurice (75)			
SPAIN	1	FRANCE	1
Garcia (85)			
Lewinski (38)			
AUSTRALIA	2	SAUDI ARABIA	1
Tsenkenis (11)		Al-Khilaaw (37)	
Viduka (64)			
SPAIN	3	AUSTRALIA	2
Raul Gonzales (40, 90)		Vidmar (3)	
Denia (86)		Corica (12)	
FRANCE	2	SAUDI ARABIA	1
Maurice (pen. 19)		Fuad Amin (26)	
Sibierski (48)			

FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
FRANCE	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
SPAIN	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Australia	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Saudi Arabia	3	0	0	3	2	5	0

Group C (Birmingham/Washington)

MEXICO	1	ITALY	0
Palencia (83)			

KOREA REP	1	GHANA	0
Yoon Jong Hwan (41)			
MEXICO	0	KOREA REP	0
GHANA	3	ITALY	2
Sabah (14, 72)		Branca (14, 43)	
Arhinful (pen. 62)			
MEXICO	1	GHANA	1
Abundis (66)		Pardo (o.g. 44)	
ITALY	2	KOREA REP	1
Branca (25, 83)		Leeki Young (62)	

FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
MEXICO	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
GHANA	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Korean Rep	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Italy	3	1	0	2	4	5	3

Group D (Miami/Orlando)

JAPAN	1	BRAZIL	0
Teruyoshi (72)			
NIGERIA	1	HUNGARY	0
Kanu (75)			
BRAZIL	3	HUNGARY	1
Ronaldinho (34)		Madar (61)	
Juninho (64)			
Bebeto (84)			
NIGERIA	2	JAPAN	0
Akiba (o.g. 83)			
Okocha (pen. 90)			
BRAZIL	1	NIGERIA	0
Ronaldinho (30)			
JAPAN	3	HUNGARY	2
Maezono (pen. 40, 90)		Madar (51)	
Uemura (90)			

FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
BRAZIL	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
NIGERIA	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
Japan	3	2	0	1	4	4	6
Hungary	3	0	0	3	3	7	0

Quarter Finals (Miami/Birmingham)

FRANCE	1	PORTUGAL	2
Maurice (pen. 49)		Capucho (8)	
		Calado (pen. 104)	
SPAIN	4		0
ARGENTINA	4		0
Crespo (47 pen. 89)			
Arrazabal (o.g. 53)			
Lopez (66)			
MEXICO	0	NIGERIA	2
		Okocha (20)	
		Babayaro (85)	
		Akunrar (23)	
		Aboagye (53)	

BRAZIL	4		2
Duodu (o.g. 17)			
Ronaldinho (56, 62)			
Bebeto (72)			

Brazil overcome tough Ghana

Ronaldinho scored two goals in six minutes on Monday to see Brazil into the semi-finals of the Olympic soccer.

Brazil beat Ghana 4-2 in an action packed match at Miami's Orange Bowl stadium but must now take on another African side, Nigeria, who earlier beat Mexico 2-0 at the Legion Field stadium in Birmingham, Alabama. Brazil came back from a goal down to win the match which



Hernan Crespo: Put away two goals for Argentina in Quarters.

saw six dramatic goals and Ghana reduced to 10 men for the last minutes after 17-year-old Christian Sabah of Bayern Munich was sent off for two yellow cards for clumsy fouls.

Brazil went ahead when Afo Duodu knocked the ball into his own net trying to intercept a cross. But then the South Americans went behind and for a time looked as though they might suffer a repeat of their shock 1-0 defeat by Japan in qualifying.

In the 23rd minute, Charles Akunrar executed a spectacular diving header to put Ghana level. Thirty minutes later Felix Aboagye sent a screaming free kick off the post past goalkeeper Dida and Brazil looked vulnerable.

Step in Ronaldinho to rip the Ghana defence apart and take his goal tally to four goals from four games at the Olympics.

The equaliser came when a quick free kick just outside the penalty area by-passed the Ghanaian defensive wall. Ronaldinho won the ball and blasted in from the right hand side. In the 62nd minute, the teenager was bursting down the left. He beat one defender to reach the bye-line and then chipped over Ghana goalkeeper Simon Addo from the narrowest of angles.

Bebeto saw one mis-kicked shot bounce over Addo and rebound off a post. But he completed the victory with a goal in the 72nd minute. "Brazil are a very good team but we felt we could beat them," said Akunrar. "We started off badly, came on strong and then finished very badly."

Brazil's World Cup hero Bebeto was taken aback by the resistance Ghana put up for most of the match.

"It was very difficult at the beginning because Ghana were a very strong team," said Bebeto. "African soccer was a surprise for me. I didn't think they were that good."

He had better get used to the new quality because Brazil next play Nigeria in the semi-final. Nigeria scored a goal in each half to beat Mexico 2-0 in front of 44,788 people.

"It was a difficult match for us," admitted Nigerian coach Jo Bonfrere. "Lucky for us we came through in the first half, 1-0, and if the Mexican goalkeeper (Jorge Campos) was not so beautiful we would have been ahead more at the break."

"This game was very exhausting. After Nigeria led 1-0 and Mexico received the red card, they put us under an enormous amount of pressure, and kept us under pressure throughout the match."

WOMENS

Group E (Miami/Orlando)

CHINA	2	SWEDEN	0
Gulhong Shi (62)			
Lihong Zhao (90)			
USA	3	DENMARK	0
Valentini (35)			
Hamm (39)			
Tiffeny (49)			
USA	2	SWEDEN	1
Venturini (scored both)		Swedberg	
CHINA	5	DENMARK	1
Wynjie (9)		Madsen (70)	
Quihong Shi (16, 76)			
Ai Ling (31)			
Guohongshi (35)			
CHINA	0	USA	0
SWEDEN	3	DENMARK	1
Videkull (73)		Jensen (60)	
Swedberg (81, 87)			

FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
CHINA	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
USA	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Sweden	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Denmark	3	0	0	3	2	11	0

Group F (Washington/Birmingham)

NORWAY	2	BRAZIL	2
Medalen (32)		Medalen (56, 89)	
Aarones (68)			
GERMANY	3	JAPAN	2
Wiegmann (6)		Kioka (19)	
Tomel (o.g. 31)		Noda (35)	
Mohr (63)			
NORWAY	3	GERMANY	2
Medalen		Wiegmann	
Aarones		Prinz	
Rilse			
NORWAY	4	JAPAN	0
Prettersen (25, 86)			
Medalen (60)			
Tangeras (75)			
BRAZIL	2	JAPAN	0
Jackson (67)			
Pretinha (77)			
BRAZIL	1	GERMANY	1
Sissi (53)		Wunderlich (4)	

FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
NORWAY	3	2	1	0	9	4	7
BRAZIL	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
Germany	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Japan	3	0	0	3	2	9	0

Semi-Finals (Athens)

CHINA	3	BRAZIL	2
Sun (5)		Roseli (67)	
Wei (83, 90)		Pretinha (72)	
NORWAY	1	USA	2
Medalen (18)		Akers (77 pen)	
		McMillan (100)	

*Scoring times not given.

FINAL

ATHENS, GEORGIA

CHINA	v	USA
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SEMI-FINALS

ATHENS, GEORGIA

ARGENTINA	v	PORTUGAL
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NIGERIA	v	GHANA
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VIDMAR BELIEVES RESULT WAS JUST

Australian goal-ace Aurelio Vidmar, who scored twice in the nail-biting 3-2 Olympic soccer loss in Orlando to Spain, said the Olyroos just did not deserve to beat the Olympic champions.

Vidmar said Australia earned its 2-0 lead after 12 minutes of attacking play but should have gone on with the job instead of dropping back in numbers.

"The way we played we just didn't deserve to win, we played great for the first 15 to 20 minutes to score the two goals and then we defended for the rest of the game," he said.

"You can only keep them out so much, they kept peppering our goal and peppering our goal, they were always going to get one I thought."

"You just can't afford to defend like that for 70 minutes."

Australia had to win its final group game to

advance to the quarter final while Spain only needed a draw to make the next round.

"If you don't take your chances you don't win," Vidmar said.

"If we'd scored those chances and made it 3-1 I think it would have been all over."

He believed Australia surrendered the midfield allowing Spain to come storming through in the dying minutes and steal the game with goals from Gonzalez and Santiago Denia.

"When you can't keep control of the midfield or anywhere on the field then it's going to be extremely hard," he said.

"They were definitely the better team tonight, they kept grinding and grinding at us and eventually got the goal that they needed, the worst thing is that we held out for so long, it was four minutes from time when they scored the qualiser," he said.

Channel 7 Television Schedule — Live

Men's Semi Final 1
08.00 — 10.00 Wed Jul 31
Semi Final 2
08.00 — 10.00 Thu Aug 1
Bronze Medal
08.00 — 10.00 Sat Aug 3
Gold Medal Final
05.45 — 07.45 Sun Aug 4
Women's Final
10.30 — 12.30 Fri Aug 2

Second phase results

Champions Spain snatched a 1-1 draw against France, the 1984 winners, with a goal from Oscar Garcia just five minutes from the end of their Group B match on a night of wasted penalties in the Olympic soccer competition.

Garcia also scored the winning goal in Spain's opening game against Saudi Arabia.

Spanish coach Javier Clemente made six changes from the side that beat Saudi Arabia while France left out captain Jerome Bonnisel and restructured their defence for the group's top game in Orlando.

The backline kept Spain at bay with clever offside tactics until the 21st minute when Oscar thought he had scored, only for the Thai referee to rule out the goal for a charge on the French goalkeeper, Lionel Letizi.

France, opened the scoring in the 39th minute from a corner when forward Sylvain Lewinski found himself

unmarked and headed home from six metres.

Spain wasted a second half penalty when Oscar's shot was saved by Letizi diving to his right. France had plenty of chances to wrap the game up before Oscar scored against the run of play as France prepared for the final whistle.

Argentina, who beat the US 3-1 in the opening game, dominated against Portugal and scored just before the half time whistle in Washington through Ariel Ortega.

They wasted countless chances including a penalty by striker Hernan Crespo. His miss seemed to unnerv the Argentine side and in the 69th minute Portuguese striker Nuno Gomez scored from a rebound from goalkeeper Carlos Bossio.

The United States beat Tunisia 2-0 with a goal just before the final whistle from midfielder Brian Maisonneuve after striker Jovan Kirovski had opened the scoring in the 38th minute.

Olyroos outlast Saudis

By Paul Millar of AAP

Australia's Olyroos turned on the power to outlast Saudi Arabia and win a heart-stopping soccer drama 2-1 at the Orange Bowl in Miami last Tuesday morning Australian time. Australia had a long list of heroes but nobody was more impressive than large than life goalkeeper Frank Juric who saved a decisive second half penalty just after Australia had edged into the lead.

"I waited until I saw the whites of his eyes and waited until he kicked the ball and luckily got a hand to it, and it went round the post," a beaming Juric said after the game.

Coach Eddie Thomson said there was nothing enjoyable for him about watching the nerve-wracking game from the touchline.

"But we showed tonight that we had nerves of steel, especially in the last 20 minutes." Peter Tsenkenis gave Australia the start it wanted with a crashing drive in the 12th minute, but the multi-skilled Saudis pulled level with a clinical header from Mohammed Al Khilawi after 37 minutes.

Mark Viduka brought a touch of class to the game when he backheeled a Joe Spiteri cross into the bottom left hand corner 20 minutes after the break.

The win kept Australia's Olympic dreams alive as the Olyroos had lost their opening game 2-0 to France.

Spain, which beat the Saudis 1-0 in their opening group game, drew 1-1 with France in Orlando which threw the group wide open.

The Orange Bowl game was played at a frantic pace, was riddled with errors, had patches of brilliance and was bubbling with commitment from both sides.

When Faud Anwar Amin smashed a wicked

shot which Juric brilliantly tipped onto the woodwork 30 minutes into the first term the Australians in the 6,000 crowd were on the edge of their seats and it wouldn't be for the last time.

The Saudi skipper smashed the woodwork again 40 minutes later and his side still had plenty to offer.

Just to make sure nobody left the stadium early, Australian skipper Kevin Muscat, who was one of the best on the field, upended Obied Al-Dossary to concede an unforgiveable penalty.

While Muscat was the immediate villain, the opposition captain had no time to gloat, when Juric pulled off his brilliant save from the spot kick.

Between all that drama, Aurelio Vidmar deflected a header onto the underside of the crossbar as both sides went at each other.

Late in the game, Vidmar appeared to be obstructed by Hussain Al Sadig as he stormed into the penalty area.

The keeper then wrapped him up, but referee Esfandir Baharnad from the USA waved play on much to the disgust of the Aussies.

"You're just not allowed to go in and clean people up like that, he missed the ball completely and wiped Aurelio out," said Thomson.

"Maybe they have changed the rules as it was a dead set penalty."

"I thought the team showed a lot of guts and determination and there was no way in the world they were going to beat us tonight."

"We looked dangerous every time we attacked, and could have got six or seven goals. I am delighted with the win."

Best wishes to Olyroos

Dear Sir,
Thank you so much for your kind and very interesting letter and, of course, for both issues of your outstanding and really very informative "Australian and British Soccer Weekly."

I am really very happy that you helped me so much.

My best compliments and congratulations to you! Your ABSW is an excellent publication, has numerous interesting articles about your Australian scene, but also very much news from Britain, European and South America. What a nice surprise, thanks to you I now know the team names in the Chinese Premier League!

Now we are into the Atlanta Games, I wish your Olympic team to reach one of the medal positions.

I have been helped so much with your two ABSW issues.

In the past year I wrote for more detailed information regarding Australian State Federation

soccer to the State Federations, but except Victorian Federation I have not received the answers and top club addresses.

I am especially interested in the NSW Super League team directories, then Sydney Cosmos, Queensland XXXX League team directories, then Perth Glory.

How did the Glory go against Sampdoria? Our press didn't give the result.

I am very sorry that I make you busy with my numerous appeals. But, if you can help me with anything I'll be so happy and really most grateful to you.

I thank you so much for your great help beforehand, wish you and your ABSW all the best in the future!

Best success for Australian soccer, especially on international scene!

Jan Boris,
Slovakia, Central Europe.

PS: Best success of all Australian athletes in Atlanta 1996!

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



The Editor,
AUSTRALIAN &
BRITISH SOCCER
WEEKLY
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MARRICKVILLE
NSW 2204
Fax: (02) 550-9332

Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

BLINKERED VIEWS

Dear Sir,
Ms Raspudic's response to my letter which appeared in your publication on the 16.7.96 highlights many of my concerns.

Ms Raspudic believes that flares should be sold at the gates. "This is to create atmosphere". Seeing someone seriously injured by a stray flare may be entertaining to her, but not to the majority of Australian soccer supporters.

The main reason people go to a soccer match is to watch soccer not to be entertained by hooligans masquerading as soccer supporters.

My letter had nothing to do with the fact that a Victorian club had won the grand final,

in fact I was attacking the blinkered view of clubs like Melbourne Knights their supporters and officials should realise that they are living in a competitive world and soccer is no different to other businesses.

They must spread their support base beyond the Croatian community if they wish to survive.

Ms Raspudic also stated that she would like to wish the Olyroos all the best, but only until Croatia prove otherwise.

Maybe someone should point out to her that this is Australia and our team is the Olyroos.

Samuel Sirras,
FAIRFIELD WEST.



"He'll be back in a minute. He's just gone to watch the penalty kick"

Cheers Micky!

Dear Sir,
Thanks for Micky Brock's enlightening interview with Norman Whiteside, good stuff!

John Kosmina and the Newcastle Breakers have just completed two weeks of holiday clinics for 550 young enthusiastic players (some

were turned away). I'm sure there were many more successful camps run at the same time throughout Australia.

Continue bringing us all the latest news... but please leave the "adventorials" out.

Kerry Phillips,
RANKIN PARK

SOUTH AUSTRALIA WOMEN QUIT LEAGUE July 21, 1996

DIVISION ONE		
West Adelaide	3 Metro Knights	0
Noarlunga	1 Elizabeth City	1
Modbury Vista	5 Elizabeth Vale	0
Stuart Marion	3 Adelaide CSC	0

DIVISION TWO		
Modbury Vista	7 Cumberland Vixens	6
Westside	2 Stirling	0
O U T	3 Plympton	0
Campbelltown	7 Adelaide Blue Eagles	0

Table at 14.7.96

Division One	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sturt Marion	11	11	0	0	68	3	22
West Adelaide	13	10	1	2	38	19	21
Modbury Vista	11	8	0	3	27	13	16
Metro Knights	12	6	1	5	34	32	13
Noarlunga Utd	13	5	1	7	28	37	11
Elizabeth Vale	13	4	2	7	21	30	10
Elizabeth City	13	2	2	9	16	51	6
Adelaide CSC	12	1	1	10	10	46	3

Division Two	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stirling Districts	11	9	2	0	33	9	20
O U T	13	8	1	4	38	21	17
Plympton O S C	13	7	3	3	28	12	17
Campbelltown City	12	7	2	3	34	12	16
Westside City	13	7	2	4	32	23	16
Cumberland Vixens	13	4	2	7	30	28	10
Modbury Vista	12	1	1	10	17	46	3
Adelaide Blue Eagles	13	0	1	12	3	64	1

Happy 50th Marrickville SC

by Bob Brooks with the assistance of Stephen Stefanoff & Glenn Longbottom

The boys in red from Marrickville Soccer Club, in sight of Sydney's CBD, celebrate their 50th Anniversary this year.

In an area of changing migrant influxes, the Club maintains its policy of, 'anyone is welcome, of any race, creed religion or colour, to enjoy the game of soccer.'

Other clubs have risen based on specific countries of origin and some have faded away as the original members have moved away but Marrickville SC marches on.

Bruce Livingston started organising games of soccer after school at Henson Park in 1945 as he lived close by, this was the seed of the Club. The next year he persuaded his uncle, Arthur Ireland to become President of the new Club, Bruce took up the duties of Secretary. They started with just two teams Under 12s and Under 14s.

Bruce Livingston went on to play many years for the 'Red Devils' and to hold every position possible within Marrickville Soccer Club. The Club's Patron is none other than the same Bruce Livingston.

Another remarkable character is Bill Strahan who is still playing for the Club after 40 continuous years. This mighty man coaches the NSW Soccer Federation Division 4 teams, amongst which are three of his sons!

It is hoped that Tom McCulloch and his father George will be there as their son started his soccer with the Club. A fellow Soccerroo, Wally Savor also kicked off of Canterbury.

Eric Hristodoulou, John Karaspytos and Bruce Young have also progressed from the club to the Green and Gold.

Well known Victoria based coach Len



L-R: Sandra Wakil, Marrickville Metro, Nathan Andrade, Jamie Farrell, Jake Byrne, Stephen Stefanoff, President.

McKendry was assigned to Canterbury by the NSW Soccer Federation when he first immigrated from Scotland.

Thoughts will turn to people like the late Tom & Hazel Saunders. In attendance on the big night will be Bert and Ali Harvey and Kevin Sutton as these folks like Bruce Livingston and Bill Strahan are Club stalwarts.

Marketing Manager of Metro Marrickville Shopping Centre, Sandra Wakil was amazed to see all the teams in their distinctive red at the recent official photographic day. Ms Wakil's organisation sponsors the Roo Ball teams from Under 6 to Under 8.

The Federation Firsts and Reserves proudly carry the sponsorship of Pony Pallets and Master Rebores onto Mackey Park.

It is interesting to note that the Club gave a boy with cerebral palsy the opportunity to take his place with his team for three seasons — he had a ball (pardon the pun).

For the past seven years the Club has been proud to have a team of deaf players a number of whom have represented NSW at the deaf games.

Their fine Mackey Park set up, containing one mini and three full size pitches, hosted the 1988 National Under 15 championships.

Marrickville Council does a great job for the Club but the arrangement is a two way street with the club paying the local authority for ground rental. Lights illuminate the Park which makes it ideal for training and occasional night games.

The current 36 teams include a remarkable 14

all-age outfits, including the Federation ones. The Club in fact entered the Inter Suburban competition in 1964. This competition was the lower grades of the Federation.

Success came for both firsts and Reserves in 1966 and for the top echelon in 1968. Promotion followed to Division Two, the highest competition in which the Club has been involved, for the 1972 season. That is where they stayed until 1981 when a more ambitious Rockdale Ilinden came in with a great offer and bought Marrickville's spot.

They re-entered the Federation competition in 1991 under their own name since then they have been Canterbury District Club Champions four times in the past decade and a half.

A Club which has a fifty year history must have

MARRICKVILLE SOCCER CLUB (The Red Devils)

50th Anniversary Dinner Saturday August 17, 1996

Canterbury Gardens Racecourse

from 7pm \$50 per head

Scrumptious 3 course dinner, beer, wine, soft drinks

Bookings Ron Royston (02) 9718 1239 (b)

or Club House (02) 9558 5849 (ah)



Atlanta Olympic Games Football Tournament

Last minutes floor Olyroos

BY PAUL MILLER



Australia's Olympic dream evaporated in the muggy heat of Orlando's Citrus Bowl as the Olyroos wilted in the final minutes of their do-or-die match against Spain, going down 3-2.

The loss allowed Spain and France to advance to the quarter-finals but the Olyroos could instead have been on the way to Birmingham, Alabama, but for some poor finishing and cruel luck.

It was a titanic struggle and Australia, which needed to win to go through to the quarter finals, had a 2-1 lead until the 86th minute and then buckled under intense pressure.

Olyroo coach Eddie Thomson said his charges had fought their hearts out, but

lacked the clinical finishing of the star-studded Spanish side.

"We missed both our chances to kill the game and unfortunately when you miss your chances you've got to pay for it," Thomson said after the game.

"I thought they were dead and buried but just three minutes killed us off." The Olyroos made a superb start to the game when Luke Casserly found Mark Viduka who in turn steered it to Aurelio Vidmar.

Before the Spanish defence contemplated tackling him, he lashed the ball into the net and Australia had a 1-0 lead with only three minutes on the clock.

Spain bounced back immediately and Oscar Garcia hit a wicked drive that Frank Juric did well to turn past the

post.

Before the crowd had time to catch its breath Australia had a 2-0 lead after a Steve Corica shot deflected off goalkeeper Juan Mora and the ball spun goalwards.

Vidmar tussled for the ball with Vincente Navarro and it was bundled over the line, the striker credited with getting a touch to it at the 12 minute mark.

Australia then took its foot off the throttle and while it did not panic it was more content to move into reverse.

The Olyroos paid the penalty for backing off when Raul Gonzalez hit a curling drive around the defensive wall and beyond the reach of Juric making it 2-1.

It was a world class effort from the Real Madrid striker and it took the psychological

edge from Australia before the half time break.

After the interval Corica advanced on the Spanish goal, but with the chance to make it 3-1, he took the ball around the advancing keeper and too wide of the goal.

Vidmar then had the chance of a hat-trick but slammed his shot into the keeper, then spooned the rebound over the bar.

From then on Australia was in retreat with Spain swarming forward in numbers.

Thomson said the Olyroos thought they were approaching the finish line well before the finish of the race.

"But if we had scored then it was all over, Spain would have been on the bus," Thomson said.

However, it was not all

over and Spain kicked, probed and teased the Australian back

line before eventually finding the gap it wanted.



Steve Corica: His deflected attempt was put away by Aurelio Vidmar.

With four minutes to play, Garcia hit a drive that rebounded off Juric's chest.

The ball fell for Santiago Denia who mis-hit it through the keepers' legs.

At 2-2 Australia pressed forward and was always exposed to the counter attack.

In injury time the Olyroos were punished when Ivan De La Pena made a weaving run and crossed to Raul who headed home sweetly to finish the scoring at 3-2.

Thomson said if his men had to play Spain again tomorrow it would be of no concern to them.

"Australia has proved tonight that it can play against anybody, they have got Raul and De La Pena and all those superstars and believe you me, they got out of jail tonight," he said.

GROUP 'A' FINAL GAMES

Argentina were held to a 1-1 draw by Tunisia in the Olympic soccer in Birmingham, but still qualified from Group A.

Argentina's scorer was Ariel Ortega in the sixth minute. Mohamed Mkhacher headed and equalised in the 75th minute.

Argentina won one match and drew two and go through to the quarter finals with Portugal.

Portugal got the point they needed to qualify for the Olympic football quarter finals from this Group by drawing 1-1 with the United States.

Portugal went ahead in the 32nd minute through Paulo Alves. The Americans, needing a win to keep their hopes alive, equalised through Brian Maisonneuve in the 75th minute.

The Portuguese won one match and drew two and qualified with Argentina.

France advances

France beat Saudi Arabia 2-1 in Miami to secure their place in the Olympic soccer quarter finals.

France went ahead through a Florian Maurice penalty in the 19th minute but Fuad Anwar Amin equalised in the 26th.

Antoine Sibierski sealed the win in the 50th minute with a flying volley goal. France won two matches and drew one to qualify from Group B with Spain.

Group C & D last games

Brazil salvaged a quarter-final place by beating Nigeria 1-0 in a thrilling Group D encounter.

They were joined in the last eight by Ghana, Mexico and Nigeria, which still qualified despite the defeat.

Dutch-based striker Ronaldo, 19, whose craft and guile belied his tender age, scored the only goal for Brazil midway through the first half.

The win for the World Cup holder, also gave it top place

above Nigeria on goals scored in Group D. Brazil moved to meet Ghana in the Quarters.

Ghana's 1-1 draw with Mexico in Washington was enough for both teams to edge out South Korea, which had gone into the final round of group matches in top place in Group C.

Korea was beaten 2-1 by Italy in Birmingham, Alabama, a result which came too late to rescue a disappointing tournament for

the "Azzurri".

Two goals from Marco Branca, the winner scored eight minutes from time, left Korea tied with Ghana on points and goal difference.

But the unfancied Asians went out by virtue of having scored fewer goals.

Their continental compatriot, and co-host of the 2002 World Cup Japan, scored two dramatic injury time goals to overhaul Hungary 3-2 in Orlando but was eliminated on goal difference.

Mexico, roared on by a

passionate crowd in the American capital, had a goalkeeping error by Ghana's Simon Addo to thank for their progress.

He misjudged a cross by Pavel Pardo and allowed Jose Abundis to beat him to the ball for a free header on goal for the Mexican equaliser in the 67th minute.

Earlier, Greek-based midfielder Ebenezer Hagan had given Ghana the lead on the stroke of halftime when his miscued shot deflected wickedly off the back of a defender and into the net.

BRAZIL & GHANA VICTORIOUS

Favourites Brazil revived their hopes of an Olympic quarter-final place by beating Hungary 3-1, but fellow soccer giants Italy crashed out after losing 3-2 to Ghana.

World champions Brazil, beaten 1-0 by Japan in their opening Group D game, scored through Ronaldo, Juninho and Bebeto.

Hungary, who had equalised early in the second half with a goal from midfielder Csabai Madar, ended the game with 10 men

after defender Vilmos Sebok was dismissed for tripping Bebeto as he bore down on goal.

Ghana capped a miserable few weeks for Italian soccer when it ended the hopes of the European under-21 champions, who lost all chance of qualifying after two successive defeats in group C.

Italy suffered similar disappointment last month when its senior side failed to qualify for the latter stages of the European championships.

Tunisia's protest thrown out

Tunisia's protest of a foul-plagued loss to the US men's team has been denied by FIFA, the sport's world governing body.

Tunisia's Ferid Chouchane was sent off following a second yellow card foul in the second half of the United States' 2-0 victory on Monday.

The foul came in the 67th minute, but Chouchane was not red carded until about two minutes later because the referee did not realise it was his second yellow card.

Tunisian coach Henri Kasperczak contended the match should be replayed because Chouchane should have been dealt with right away or not at all.

FIFA's Committee on Urgent Matters met in Miami and rejected the protest, without giving a reason.

Tarek Ben Chrouda was also sent off later in the game after receiving his second yellow card, and the US made it 2-0 with a two-man advantage.

In Orlando, where Disney World aims to make everybody's dream come true, Australia's Olympic soccer hopes faded into the still night of the Citrus Bowl.

It was a dramatic finish to a campaign that started in February, 1994 and ended agonisingly with stoppage time 3-2 loss to Spain.

The Olyroos stretched our nerves to the limits in a roller coaster ride of drama, excitement and gut wrenching disappointment that could have been penned from the Walt Disney camp.

France was always going to be tough in Miami, where the Olyroo's only vice was ogling the beautiful people who flock there for their vacation.

Coach Eddie Thomson said preparations were ideal and a week-long training camp before the Games in the heat of Townsville had acclimatised the Olyroos nicely.

They were fine-tuned and ready and as they say ready to take on all comers.

But anything that could go wrong did at the cavernous Orange Bowl. Robert Pires rifled a shot through a packed Australian penalty area, sending the net bulging and the game was

only 12 minutes old.

Fiery midfielder Danny Tiatto might have been wondering how sweet a cold shower would have felt in the muggy heat and minutes later he was on his way to find out after being shown a red card following a heavy collision with Claude Makelele.

It was a turning point in the game, and arguably the series for Australia.

Try as they might the Olyroos just could not claw back the deficit and it was no surprise when they fell further behind to a Florian Maurice goal.

French coach Raymond Demenech said afterwards that he was surprised at the combative nature of the Australian's, he shouldn't have been as in every game they played they battled for every blade of grass.

"If we had been eleven on eleven for the whole game we would have had our work cut out," he said. Take note Tiatto.

Two night's later Australia was to face cash-rich Saudi Arabia, a side that was on a promise of untold riches if it made the final.

With Tiatto out, Thomson had to reshuffle his line-up but there was extra bad news

as key defender Steve Horvat had injured his knee against France and it was worse than first thought.

The calming influence in the Olyroo backline, was ruled out, but Ross Aloisi proved a worthy replacement against the Saudi's while suspended Tiatto was forced to watch the game from the garish orange stand.

Thomson (below) said his side would be committed to



attack, but we had never seen them play any other way and his game plan was no surprise.

There was a big-time hero and a part-time villain in this showdown which produced a thrill a minute.

Peter Tsekenis gave Australia the lead it wanted in an end to end encounter

but Mohammed Al Khilaiwi levelled after 37 minutes.

It was a game riddled with errors and Kevin Muscat, the best Australian player in the series, made an unforgivable one when he scythed away Saudi's star, Obied Al-Dossary's legs.

But Frank Juric was equal to Al-Dossary's penalty kick with a brilliant full length save.

Mark Viduka showed a touch of class to seal the game for Australia with the sweetest flick you're ever likely to see and the American press were stunned when he said it was nothing special.

It might not have been on the top of his extensive hit list but it led the charts with his team-mates.

And then they travelled to Orlando to face a team of mega stars who all play in the Spanish first division.

Barcelona star Ivan De la Pena, the little Buddha, and Real Madrid wonderboy Raul Gonzalez are names that were already the toast of Spain, by the end of the Citrus Bowl game they would be etched in the memories of the Olyroos.

Aurelio Vidmar, who ironically joins Spanish club Tenerife after the Games, hit two early goals to give the

Olyroos a lead they must have prayed for.

But Gonzalez replied with a goal made in heaven when he bent the ball around the wall into Juric's top right hand corner just before the break.

Australia had already abandoned its swashbuckling, attacking style and was paying dearly as the Spanish probed, cut and unstitched the Australian backline.

The Olyroos were desperate in every tackle, but had an eye on the clock with every lunge. "They thought they were at the finish line, but there was still a long way to go," coach Thomson said after the game.

Santiago Denia levelled at 2-2 with minutes remaining and Gonzalez twisted the dagger with a stoppage time sealer taking it to 3-2.

Thomson said Australia had proved against Spain that it bowed to no side.

Spain might have got out of jail, but Australia is now on probation until the Sydney Olympics.

In the home of theme parks Porky Pig might have the most appropriate last word for the Olyroos: "Yibbidee, Yibbidee that's all folks".

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BY RICHARD KREIDER

Lions close to surrendering crown

The Premier League championship is heading for a thrilling climax following last weeks results which included a 3-0 loss by defending champions Stirling Macedonia to current leader Bayswater Panthers.

With success also going to Inglewood at Kingsway, the title may not be decided until three weeks time when the top two teams clash in the final

round of fixtures.

Interestingly, neither Bayswater nor Inglewood have ever won the title.

What the Bayswater Oval scoreline doesn't show is, although Bayswater first broke through in the 26th minute it was a different story prior, as most of the action was seen at the other end of the park.

But after Ross Greer rifled home a gift when goalkeeper

Phil Trianedes failed to hold a Shane Phur centre, Macedonia suddenly looked a different team, one without impetus or commitment.

A minute from the restart, Phur was involved in his sides second goal, when after another right flank run, the clubs paciest winger cut in towards the Stirling danger zone and released a shot that somehow found the mark through a pack of players.

The Panthers drove home the final nail in the 61st minute though Alan Mackenzie after Greer superbly dummied a Kevin Molyneux cross.

"It would have to be the most complete performance of the season," said Panthers coach Eric Williams. "I think we now have one hand on the

title," he said.

Spearwood Dalmatinac maintained fourth position on the standings, following a 2-2 draw with Swan IC at their Dalmatinac Park ground.

Craig Rourke and Dean Gartside were the home side scorers while for Swan, Damien Scali netted his seventh of the season to go with a single from Greg Cicanese.

At the Gwelup ground, league struggler Western Knights and Sorrento could not be separated after their match finished in a goalless draw.

In the First Division, the battle for the flag remains undecided after a 1-1 draw between the top two Joondalup City and Fremantle City.

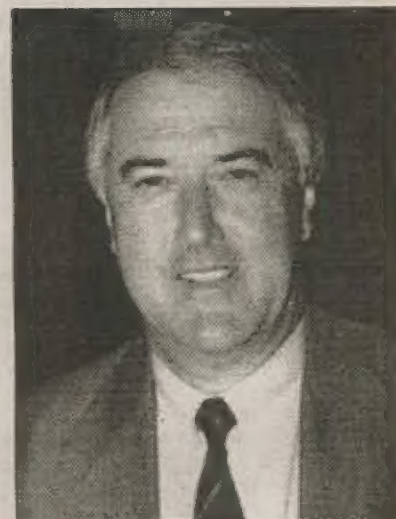
GLORY WIN SOME, LOSE ONE

The recruitment drive of Perth's new Ericsson Cup team Perth Glory is gaining momentum and proving fruitful as they gear up for the forthcoming A-League season.

The most significant appointment to date is that of Yugoslav born striker Goran Kopunovic who plays for Hungarian club Ferencvaros.

Glory General Manager Roger Lefort said they have agreed terms with the 29 year old and will wait on his arrival once his commitments with the recently crowned Hungarian league champions finishes.

One of his remaining duties include playing in next month's first round home and away legs of the European Cup against Gothenburg of Sweden. His contract expires immediately after those matches. Although the Glory are currently having difficulties contacting Kopunovic, they are not anticipating any problems.



Roger Lefort: Glory General Manager.

coach Adrian Santrac with a breathtaking performance for Sorrento against Bayswater last week, despite losing 1-0.

Had the former Arbroath and Stenhousemuir player have stayed with the Glory, he would most likely have started as reserve to Tom Maras. Former Youth International Vince Matassa is the most likely replacement.

Harkness' departure now opens the door for Glory to seek another visa player to go with Kopunovic and Wilkinson.

Meanwhile, Gary Marocchi will be travelling to Melbourne next week in an effort to further reinforce his squad with national talent. Part of his itinerary includes speaking to 22 year old Melbourne Knights utility Vinjko Buljubasic as well as attending a Heidelberg — Thomsontown fixture.

A possible motive for watching that particular game is to scrutinise the form of ex-WA state forward Slobodan Despotovski.

Marocchi said the door is also wide open to anyone keen to join his squad which starts training at Perth Oval on August 7, in readiness for their history making debut season.



The other overseas signing is that of New Zealand Youth International captain Gavin Wilkinson who made his senior debut against China in June. The tall 22 year old, who can play in either a midfield or defensive position, recently had successful trials with English club Sheffield United only to be left down by visa complications.

He is also expected to be employed in a Development officer capacity.

Former Perth Kangaroo defender Vladimir Beretovac, who has recently been playing in the Croatian second division with Osiak, has been having talks with Glory coach Gary Marocchi and is close to a decision.

On the minus side however, Glory and Sorrento goalkeeper Mike Harkness is close to joining West Adelaide after impressing their



Alan Mackenzie: Drove home the final nail into Stirling's coffin.

PREMIER DIVISION

Bayswater Panthers	3	Stirling Macedonia	0
Olympic Kingsway	0	Inglewood Falcons	3
Western Knights	0	Sorrento	0
Spearwood Dal	2	Swan IC	2
Floreat Athena	0	Perth SC	0

RESERVES

Bayswater Panthers	3	Stirling Macedonia	0
Olympic Kingsway	2	Inglewood Falcons	3
Western Knights	0	Sorrento	2
Spearwood Dal	5	Swan IC	3
Floreat Athena	1	Perth SC	0

UNDER 18

Bayswater Panthers	1	Stirling Macedonia	2
Olympic Kingsway	1	Inglewood Falcons	2
Western Knights	4	Sorrento	4
Spearwood Dal	0	Swan IC	4
Floreat Athena	1	Perth SC	3

DIVISION ONE

Ashfield-Bunbury	4	North Lake Espanol	1
Perth City	4	Cockburn United	0
Morley Windmills	1	Balcatta	1
Southside United	0	Dianella WE	1
Fremantle City	1	Joondalup City	1
Rockingham City	0	Bassendean Cale	0

DIVISION TWO

Wanneroo City	3	Balga	3
University	2	Melville Corinthians	2
Western Yugal	0	Queens Park	2

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bayswater	15	12	1	2	38	10	37
Inglewood	15	11	2	2	29	14	35
Stirling	15	10	1	4	29	20	31
Spearwood	15	9	1	5	26	22	28
Perth SC	15	8	3	4	28	19	27
Floreat	15	4	6	5	23	26	18
Sorrento	15	3	3	9	15	22	12
Western K	15	3	3	9	18	25	12
Swan IC	15	2	2	11	15	36	8
Olympic	15	1	2	12	15	42	5

LEADING SCORERS

19 Robert Perruzza	Bayswater
10 Peter Coci	Perth
9 Peter Murphy	Stirling
8 Vas Kalogeracos	Floreat
7 Neil Blunt	Sorrento
7 Rob Milevski	Stirling
7 Trim Morgan	W/Knights
7 Eugen Singeorzan	W/Knights
7 Dale Wingell	Perth SC
7 Damien Scali	Swan IC
6 Norrie Sutton	Inglewood

Falcons poised to pounce

Inglewood Falcons remain in second position and well in contention for the title after a 3-0 win over league strugglers Olympic Kingsway at a boggy Kingsway Reserve ground.

After Ian Ballantyne blasted a Lou Collova ball wide in the fourth minute, then headed a Denis Muzafirovic scrubber onto the cross-bar six minutes later, the seasoned forward eventually bulged the net in the 28th minute despite cries of off-side.

Kingsway came very close to equalising in the 40th minute when Ryan Newhill was put through, but Ron More executed a superb reflex save.

Four minutes later, the home side had another opportunity when More let a Graham Normanton free-kick slip out of his clutches. Olympic midfielder Michael Ortin was ideally positioned to tuck away the rebound, but More recovered the situation by superbly saving right on Ortin's bootlaces.

Olympic suffered a further

set-back right on half-time when Diario Di Cesare was taken to hospital for a suspected broken nose after a collision.

Inglewood coach Paul Wormley replaced John Hunter and Muzafirovic for Gavin Tait and Lee Crosby for the start of the second-half, a move which proved later to be a match-winning one.

Tait, who was pushed up front from his normal role of sweeper, made it 2-0 in the 66th minute when he slid home a Scott Daley centre.

The tall forward scored a second in the 89th minute in identical fashion to his first, when he forced in a Ballantyne ball again off the right-hand byeline.

Meanwhile, in the Sunday clash at the Lake Monger Velodrome, Perth missed the opportunity to move into fourth position after a 0-0 result with Floreat Athena.

Both sides had their chances, the first going in Floreat's favour when in the 31st minute, midfielder Taso Notaris was unlucky to hit the crossbar from 25 metres.

Marc Wingell had the ball in the net three minutes after the interval only to see a flag raised for offside when Floreat winger Taki Tzoganos shot straight at Vince Matassa in a one on one.

Perth decided it was time they retaliate a minute further on through Peter Coci who chipped accurately over John Xigas, only to find Athena defender Alex Novatsis on the line to clear.

The speedy state forward had a chance to seal maximum points in the final seconds, but another chipped effort sailed fractionally too high.



Gavin Tait: Sub scored two for Falcons.



QUEENSLAND

XXXX League



QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION Perry Park, Abbotsford Road, Mayne, Queensland 4006 Phone: (07) 3252-5327 Fax: (07) 3252-1137

ALL SET FOR CITY v LIONS DECIDER

Old National League enemies Brisbane City and Lions will lock horns in a final round battle for the XXXX League premiership next Sunday, after Beenleigh held on for a 2-2 draw at Lions Richlands Stadium on the weekend.

Brisbane Lions go into the final match of the season three points clear of City, who thrashed Grange Thistle



Beenleigh substitute Jason Eacott midweek through the second half.

Lions had their backs to the wall after just 14 minutes when Beenleigh striker Brett Druery weighted a perfect pass to pierce Lions defence for youngster Adam Gordon to slot home from close range.

The goal stunned Lions into action but chances for goal fell to Cliff Tuck, Kevin Meacock and Chris Della Rocca who all failed to peg back the lead.

Lions then found themselves trailing by two



6-0, needing only a draw to snatch the title.

However Lions have the disadvantage of playing City on their home turf and armed with the knowledge that a loss would surrender the title to the hosts who have a substantially better goal difference.

And in a promoters dream end to the season, Beenleigh's drawn result with Lions left the door ajar for Taringa Rovers to grab the vital fifth spot if they can topple Beenleigh away from home.

Like Brisbane Lions, Beenleigh are three points clear of Taringa but a loss would see Rovers overhaul Beenleigh on goal difference.

In a thriller at Richland Stadium, Lions had to claw back a two goal deficit to share the points in a match which featured missed penalties from both sides and the dismissal of

lengthy periods after the interval and could easily have been back on the scoresheet five minutes in when a long clearance from keeper Robbie Farrow fell nicely for striker Warren Allen.

Allen rifled a shot but it was brilliantly parried by Beenleigh keeper Chris Roche to Meacock who struck his attempt wide of the upright.

Lions continued pressing forward and again missed a valuable chance to equalise on 57 minutes when Della Rocca muffed a sitter with Roche at his mercy after Lions had manoeuvred themselves into a threatening position with four attackers against two defenders.

The inevitable equaliser came in the 61st minute when Lions midfielder Steve Starr broke clear from the halfway and combined with replacement Anthony Brown to side foot home.

Lions missed a golden opportunity to wrap up the premiership midway through the second stanza when Lions skipper Frank Mengotti was felled in the box by Beenleigh substitute Anthony Roche.

However, Allen's left foot penalty blast was well saved by custodian Roche diving to his right. In an enthralling finish the Lions keeper was lucky to escape with a yellow card for a professional foul on Jeremy



with five minutes to the break when Druery found space, latching onto a perfectly timed pass from Mark Lederhose to score against the run of play.

The score line looked set to remain unchanged going to the break when Lions suddenly grabbed a goal back five minutes into stoppage time when a poor Beenleigh clearance rebounded into the net.

Lions dominated for



QUEENSLAND XXXX LEAGUE

Brisbane Lions	2	Beenleigh	2
Eastern Suburbs	2	Rochdale Rvrs	2
Brisbane City	6	Grange Thistle	0
Taringa Rovers	2	Coalstars	0
North Star	3	Pine Rivers Utd	1
Wynnum District	2	Nerang SC	0

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Brisbane Lions	21	16	2	3	52	24	50
Brisbane City	21	15	2	4	53	19	47
Rochdale Rovers	21	13	5	3	68	24	44
Wynnum District	21	11	4	6	39	29	37
Beenleigh	21	11	3	7	27	28	36
Taringa Rovers	21	10	3	8	50	32	33
Pine Rivers Utd	21	8	1	12	38	46	25
Nerang Soccer Club	21	7	3	11	36	45	24
Coalstars	21	6	3	12	29	36	21
Grange Thistle	21	6	3	12	23	62	21
Eastern Suburbs	21	4	4	13	27	43	16
North Star	21	2	1	18	18	72	7



Peter Underhill, Pine Rivers custodian tips over to foil a Brisbane City raid in a recent clash.

Harris while Eacott got his marching orders one minute later for a late tackle on Meacock.

Beenleigh were given a chance five minutes later to

gain a shock win also from the spot after a Starr indiscretion against Druery but Farrow dived well to the left to deny him.

DIVISION TWO

Albany Creek Excelsior	1	Rocklea Utd	2
Ipswich St Helens Utd	0	St Albans	2
Logan City Kings	3	Mount Gravatt	3
Inala City Utd	4	Olympic Utd	1
The Gap	2	Capalaba S & R	1
Willowburn	2	Acacia Ridge	2

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Rocklea Utd	21	15	3	3	52	24	48
Olympic Utd	21	14	4	3	57	32	46
St Albans	21	11	3	7	46	34	36
Inala City Utd	21	11	1	9	44	41	34
Mount Gravatt	21	8	8	5	45	37	32
Albany Creek Exc	21	8	5	8	45	49	29
The Gap	21	8	4	9	32	39	28
Acacia Ridge	21	7	5	9	37	41	26
Logan City Kings	21	5	5	11	34	36	20
Capalaba S & Rec	21	4	8	9	40	47	20
Willowburn	21	4	6	11	25	44	18
Ipswich St Helens Utd	21	4	2	15	18	52	14

DIVISION THREE

Goodna & Districts	0	Souths Utd	0
Latrobe Athletic	2	Mitchelton	7
Clairvaux SC Inc	1	Newmarket	4
Redlands Utd	1	Darra Utd	1
Uni of QLD	1	Slacks Creek	2
Annerley Rec	3	Western Suburbs	0

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Slacks Creek	20	17	2	1	70	10	53
Mitchelton	20	15	1	4	72	21	46
Newmarket	20	14	2	4	41	19	44
Souths United	20	9	6	5	43	24	33
Redlands United	20	9	3	8	41	27	30
Goodna & Districts	20	7	7	6	29	24	28
University of QLD	20	8	3	9	39	35	27
Darra United	20	7	6	7	40	39	27
Annerley Recreation	20	5	5	10	32	43	20
Latrobe Athletic	20	5	4	11	42	59	19
Clairvaux SC Inc	20	2	1	17	26	76	7
Western Suburbs	20	2	0	18	12	110	6

DIVISION FOUR

Bayside United	3	North Pine United	2
Pine Hills	1	Brothers United	6
South Star	1	Moggill United	0
Samford	2	Ipswich City	0
Greenbank	0	Southside Eagles	3
Redcliffe City	5	Browns Plains	2

TABLES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
South Star	20	15	2	3	60	22	47
Moggill United	20	15	1	4	55	12	46
Bayside United	20	14	1	5	54	28	43
Southside Eagles	20	12	4	4	41	22	40
Brothers United	20	12	2	6	57	39	38
North Pine United	20	11	2	7	42	32	35
Redcliffe City	20	9	5	6	53	44	32
Samford	20	7	3	10	38	30	24
Pine Hills	20	5	1	14	24	60	16
Greenbank	20	3	2	15	37	79	11

DIVISION XXXX LEAGUE

This Week's Matches...

Saturday, August 4

Nerang	v	Eastern Suburbs
Pine Rivers	v	Wynnum
Coalstar	v	North Star
Beenleigh	v	Taringa Rovers
Brisbane City	v	Brisbane Lions
Rochdale Rovers	v	Grange Thistle

Glennon Park	2.45pm
Wendy Allison Park	2.45pm
Eric Evans Reserve	2.45pm
Chris Green Park	2.45pm
Spencer Park	2.45pm
Underwood Park	2.45pm

Northern New South Wales

NBN FIRST DIVISION

Hamilton Warriors	4	Westy Workers Bluebells	0
Cessnock Hornets	1	Deloraine Eagles	8
Maitland Magpies	0	Broadmeadow Magic	0
Weston Workers Bears	2	Highfields	0
Pasminco Roosters	1	Wallsend Red Devils	3

RESERVE GRADE

Hamilton Warriors	3	Westy Workers Bluebells	2
Cessnock Hornets	0	Deloraine Eagles	5
Maitland Magpies	1	Broadmeadow Magic	4
Weston Workers Bears	2	Highfields	0
Pasminco Roosters	0	Wallsend Red Devils	1

TOOHEYS FIRST GRADE

Lambton Jaffas	4	Budgewoi Budgies	2
Thornton Park	2	Beresfield	0

TOOHEYS RESERVE GRADE

Lambton Jaffas	7	Budgewoi Budgies	2
Thornton Park	0	Beresfield	1

NBN FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Weston Workers Bears	18	15	3	0	53	19	48
Highfields Wolves	18	13	2	3	55	12	41
Hamilton Warriors	18	13	1	4	41	25	40
Wallsend Red Devils	18	10	3	5	29	15	33
Deloraine Eagles	18	10	1	7	45	21	31
Westy Workers B	18	5	3	10	26	43	18
Broadmeadow Magic	18	5	3	10	29	48	18
Maitland Magpies	18	4	4	10	26	39	16
Cessnock Hornets	18	1	4	13	15	47	7
Pasminco Roosters	18	1	2	15	10	60	5

Bears pull further away

BY DANE SKAFTE

Weston Workers Bears have shown that they are an outstanding side after their 2-0 win over the Highfield's Wolves at Weston Park last Sunday.

Both sides had so much to prove going into the final round of the NBN competition before the semi-finals get under way this weekend.

The Bears showed plenty of commitment against the Wolves dominating the majority of the game with strikers Ian Tressidder and Neville Smith causing plenty of problems for the Wolves defence.

Weston took the lead after only seven minutes with a good run by Neville Smith who knocked the ball across from the left with the Highfields keeper Craig Shanks getting a bad bounce with the ball going into the net and the keeper left stranded.

Midway through the first half Highfields had their best opportunity when Todd McManus pounced on a ball and his low kick was cleared off the line by Weston defender Jamie Wile.

Two minutes later Weston continued to push forward after a shot by Craig Beckett was knocked away by the Wolves defence.

Highfields kept pushing the ball around for an equaliser and were unlucky not to have scored after Mick Williams's attempt at goals was cleared away by Anthony Richards.

The Bears went further ahead just on the half time break when Ian Tressidder knocked the ball home after a good cross by Anthony Beckett.

Weston had several chances midway through the second half but only poor finishing and several good saves by Shanks kept the score at 2-0.

Weston's coach Keith Harris said after the match "to beat a side like Highfields 2-0 was a good result, it was a whole team effort today, the boys played extremely well and the final result indicated this."

I was pleased with the way Anthony Richards and Dean Howard played, the majority of our young team have been playing together for the past eight years and goalkeeper Peter Oberhauser is one of the best keepers I've seen for a long time." He concluded.

Weston striker Ian Tressidder finished equal leading goalscorer with Highfield's Bret MacAuley and Edgeworth's Danny Gordon with fifteen goals.

Tressidder has been happy with his form this season "I knew I had fourteen goals going into today's game, but I continued to focus on the importance of this match. Earlier during this season it was a two-way battle with team mate Justin Kavanagh but after he got injured a fortnight ago I just kept taking my chances to score." Tressidder said.

A disappointed Wolves coach Steve Bland agreed that Weston were a more physical side than his team today "I thought we created chances and we battled away, full credit must go to Weston, they deserve to win as well as taking out the minor premiership."

The boys will now regroup and focus on next week's game against Hamilton on Sunday, Bland said.

BY DANE SKAFTE

Weston Bears striker Justin Kavanagh has been sidelined for the rest of the season after having dislocated his shoulder two weeks ago in the match against Wallsend.

"I was just challenging for the ball with a Wallsend player when I fell awkwardly on my shoulder."

"The pain was unbearable at the time. I knew I had done some damage when I was being taken off the field."

This has been a major blow for the Bears with Kavanagh being a major influence behind Weston's minor premiership win, he will be greatly missed leading up to the finals.

The 21 year old was also the leading goalscorer in his club so far this season with twelve goals and was having a close battle with team mate Ian Tressidder.

"I spoke with a specialist last week and he said that there was no guarantee that



Justin Kavanagh: Weston's ace goal poacher — his season is over.

the arm will get 100% better" Kavanagh said.

"I have also spoken to my

physio John Munro and he said that I have done some damage to my radial nerve.

"I have been told to keep exercising my arm and to keep moving the nerve

which controls the fingers and the wrist.

"It's one of the worst injuries that I have suffered in my soccer career."

Last season he played at the back for the Bears, but was pushed up front this season after Peter Budden and Mark Beagan left the club.

"I have been working well with Ian (Tressidder) up front we both have a good understanding together. It's always a battle to see who scores the most goals," Kavanagh said.

Kavanagh agreed that his most successful season was two years ago when he was named Northern NSW player of the year.

"I was playing at the back then and I had a good season and I really enjoyed it."

Kavanagh is hopeful that he may have a slight chance of playing in the Grand Final if his arm improves.

"I will wait and see what happens in the next few weeks and see if the arm responds to treatment."

LEADING GOALSCORERS

--Round 18--

15 — Brett Macaulay	Highfields Wolves
15 — Ian Tressidder	Weston Workers Bears
15 — Danny Gordon	Deloraine Eagles
12 — Benn Lane	Hamilton Warriors
12 — Justin Kavanagh	Weston Workers Bears



Todd Manus: came closest to scoring for Wolves.

ILLAWARRA PREMIER LEAGUE

BY PHIL MURPHY

Another premier league coach bit the dust last week. Dapto coach Barney King resigned and was immediately replaced by former Scottish professional Stuart Beedie.

Beedie has been playing with State league club Illawarra Lions this season. Dapto led 1-0 at halftime through Nigel Hughes but Olympic drew level when striker Manny Mavridas found the net.

With two minutes to go, veteran midfielder David Skeen grabbed the winner from the penalty spot. Dapto president said King had resigned his role because of work commitments.

There had been rumours that King was going to be replaced after recent poor results. However, Beedie took over a side just outside the top four in a very congested points table.

Beedie, who had watched his team play twice before taking them over, said he was confident Dapto had the players to do well.

Leaders Lysaghts had to pull out something extra to beat a determined Coniston at Lysaghts Recreation Ground on Saturday.

The home team scored two late goals to win 4-1 but that wasn't a true reflection of the game. Lysaghts led after 10 minutes through Shane Williams but John Simonovski equalised right on half time with a header.

Lysaghts were forced to defend for most of the second half and Coniston forced nine corners. Jim Sribnovski hit the crossbar with a stinging drive and Alex Krkovski was just wide with a diving header.

Replacement Victor Costabile put Lysaghts ahead against the run of play then Williams and Noel Spencer found the net in the last few minutes.

West-Figtree bounced back from a 4-0 loss to Port Kembla to beat Westderra by the same score at Unanderra Oval.

Frank Barila and Daniel Hastings scored two goals apiece.

In other Saturday games, second-placed Port Kembla beat Cringila 2-0 at Wetherall Park, Northern United and Balgownie finished scoreless while Bulli outclassed Fernhill 4-0 on Friday night.

POINTS TABLE: Lysaghts 43, Port Kembla 34, Wollongong Olympic 31, Bulli 23, Fernhill 20, Balgownie 19, Dapto 18, West-Figtree 18, Coniston 17, Northern United 17, Westderra 12.

The Bulli-Port Kembla clash at Ball's Paddock looks like it will be the most important game this weekend.

Bulli are getting back to their early-season form and beat Port Kembla away in the first round. The return of utility player Steve Forshaw from Wollongong City has been a big boost to Bulli coach John Frew.

Full draw (home team first): Balgownie v Lysaghts, Cringila v Northern United, Bulli v Port Kembla, Wollongong Olympic v Fernhill, Coniston v Westderra and West-Figtree v Dapto.

Wollongong White Eagles fought back from 3-1 down to draw 3-3 with Kemblawarra in a classic first division game on Sunday.

Given match of the weekend status by the ISA, the game provided a 1200-plus crowd with a magnificent 90 minutes.

It had everything — goals, near misses and some great football from both sides.

Kemblawarra striker Joe Coelho, who scored twice, terrorised the White Eagles defence in the first half while midfielder Vladi Sribnovski deserved his man of the match award.

David Green had an outstanding second half for the White Eagles.

The point leaves the Eagles two points clear of Kemblawarra and odds-on favourites to win the championship.



SUPER LEAGUE

	1st	U/21
Canterbury Marrickville v Central Coast	1-0	5-1
Adamstown R'bud v Leichhardt Tigers	w/o	w/o
St George Saints v Sutherland Sharks	w/o	w/o
Illawarra Lions v Rockdale City Suns	w/o	w/o
Parramatta Eagles v Blacktown City	w/o	w/o
Warringah Dolphins v Macarthur Rams	0-0	1-2
Bonnyrigg WE v Bankstown City Lions	w/o	w/o

DIVISION ONE

	1st	U/21	U/18
West Wanderers v Hills United	1-3	1-5	0-1
Belmore Hercules v Ryde City	3-3	1-6	1-1
Dulwich Hill v Bathurst '75	1-2	0-2	0-5
Bathurst '75 v Stanmore Hawks	washed out		
Mt Druitt Town Rangers v Penrith P	washed out		
Dulwich Hill v Auburn United	washed out		
Fairfield Bulls v Mt Pritchard	washed out		
Sydney Cosmos v Southern Minotaurs	washed out		

DIVISION TWO

	1st	U/21	U/18
University of NSW v Granville G'island	n/a	n/a	3-1
Trasandinos v Prairiewood United	2-1	n/a	n/a
Liverpool City v Hurstville	0-2	5-0	2-1
Greystanes v Prairiewood Utd	washed out		
Granville G'island v Parramatta City	washed out		
Concord Juniors v Alexandria Warriors	washed out		
University of NSW v Trasandinos	washed out		
AC United v Sydney District	washed out		

DIVISION THREE

	1st	2nd
Prospect United v Colo Colo	3-1	5-1
Glebe Wanderers v St John's Park	2-0	1-1
Hawkesbury City v Moorebank Sports	w/o	w/o
White City v Gladesville United	w/o	w/o
Sporting SCC v Earlwood Hermes	w/o	w/o
The Wanderers v Hakoah	w/o	w/o

DIVISION FOUR

	1st	2nd
Marrickville Reds v Fraser Park	0-1	2-1
Angels Liverpool United	4-1	2-1
St Joseph's v CSI Schofields	w/o	w/o
Springwood v Fairfield Kings	w/o	w/o
Lithgow Workmen	w/o	w/o
Arncliffe Scots v Canley Vale	w/o	w/o
Angels Liverpool Utd v Sydney Uni	0-3	0-1

DIVISION FIVE

	1st	2nd
Ava United v Nepean Districts	1-5	0-11
Maroubra United v Nepean Districts	3-2	2-1
United Eagles v Gladesville Hornsby	w/o	w/o
Kosciusko v Camden	w/o	w/o
Ava United v Mascot Kings	w/o	w/o

DIVISION SIX

	1st	2nd
Blacktown Premier v Bossy	1-0	10-1
NSW Police	w/o	w/o
UWS Macarthur v Queens Park	w/o	w/o

DIVISION ONE — WOMEN'S

	1st	2nd
NSW ITC / Penrith v Marconi	w/o	w/o
Sutherland v Sydney Cosmos	w/o	w/o
Northern NSW ITC v St George	w/o	n/a
Blacktown City v UWS Macarthur	w/o	w/o
Gladesville Ravens v NSW ITC / Penrith	1-5	0-1

DIVISION TWO

	1st	2nd
Bathurst v St George	3-1	

WARATAH CUP 1996

Drawn Monday August 5, 1996

The teams in Round 6 draw
Hills United Div 1; Bathurst '75 Div 1;
Sydney Cosmos Div 1; Sutherland
Shire Super; Rockdale City Suns
Super; Parramatta Eagles Super;
Highfields Wolves NNSW Div 1;
Warringah Dolphins Super;
Canterbury Marrickville Super;
Marconi Fairfield NSL; UTS Olympic
NSL; Wollongong City NSL; Sydney
United NSL; Newcastle Breakers
NSL; Canberra Cosmos NSL; Weston
Creek ACT Premier

GRAND FINAL

PICTURE UNCLEAR

With most games washed out over the weekend the picture is no clearer as to which team will join Adamstown Rosebud in the Grand Final.

Parramatta Eagles should be too strong for Central Coast next weekend, as the coasties have got to gain a win in the second part of the season.

St George take the short trip to Lambert Park to take

on old rivals Leichhardt Tigers. The Saints without striker Steve Karavakis could find it difficult to maintain their drive for the top.

Tigers coach, Tony Pezzano will have his team revved up to take on the Saints outfit.

Sutherland Sharks could be sitting on top after the weekend games as they entertain Illawarra Lions at Seymour Shaw in Miranda.

However the Lions will be keen to knock off the Sharks to spoil the home side's enviable record.

It will be interesting to see how the relegation issue is resolved. Will it be the team that finished last over the combined two halves of the season or the one that ends in the cellar after the second round or a combined first team and Under 21 result. More likely it will be none of these.



Nikolce Joseski: Bankstown striker — leading the State scoring chart.

LEADING SCORERS SUPER LEAGUE

19	N Joseski (Bankstown)
16	E Williams (Rockdale)
15	S Cleary (Leichhardt)
12	B Karavakis (St George)
11	M Ninkovic (Bonnyrigg)
10	S Porter (Sutherland)
9	L McGuire (Adamstown)
	G Bard (Sutherland)
8	D Harding (Warringah)
	M Hoenselaars (Bonnyrigg)
	S Telisman (Leichhardt)

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 24

SATURDAY AUGUST 3

Sutherland Sharks v Illawarra Lions
Seymour Shaw Park, 6pm

Central Coast v Parramatta Eagles
Pluim Park, 6pm

Bonnyrigg WE v Warringah Dolphins
Serbian Centre, 6pm

Blacktown City Demons v Macarthur Rams
Gabbie Stadium, 6pm

SUNDAY AUGUST 4

Bankstown City Lions v Adamstown Rosebud
Jensen Park, 3pm

Leichhardt Tigers v St George Saints
Lambert Park, 3pm

Rockdale City Suns v Canterbury Marrickville
Rockdale Illinden Sports Centre, 3pm

SOCCER NSW INFORMATION SERVICE

0055 22885

Max. call cost 75c/min. — IDS
(Higher rate applies with mobile and public phones)

SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Parramatta Eagles	9	6	3	0	14	5	21
St George Saints	9	6	2	1	21	8	20
Sutherland Sharks	9	5	4	0	12	5	19
Illawarra Lions	9	5	1	3	17	15	16
Bonnyrigg W/Eagle	9	4	2	3	16	11	14
Bankstown City	9	4	2	3	15	18	14
Leichhardt Tigers	9	3	4	2	13	14	13
Canterbury Berrys	10	3	4	3	8	10	13
Macarthur Rams	10	3	1	6	9	10	10
Blacktown City	9	2	3	4	15	14	9
Rockdale City Sun	9	2	3	4	13	15	9
Adamstown Rosebud	9	2	2	5	9	19	8
Warringah Dolphin	10	1	4	5	8	14	7
Central Coast	10	0	3	7	8	21	3

UNDER 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Parramatta Eagles	9	8	1	0	29	7	25
Sutherland Sharks	9	7	1	1	18	2	22
Macarthur Rams	10	7	1	2	19	8	22
St George Saints	9	6	1	2	29	8	19
Blacktown City	9	6	1	2	26	13	19
Bonnyrigg W/Eagle	9	4	2	3	16	15	14
Adamstown Rosebud	9	4	0	5	20	23	12
Canterbury Berrys	10	3	2	5	27	28	11
Warringah Dolphin	10	3	2	5	16	18	11
Leichhardt Tigers	9	2	2	5	9	17	8
Rockdale City Sun	9	2	1	6	13	18	7
Central Coast	9	1	2	6	8	21	5
Bankstown City	8	1	2	5	7	23	5
Illawarra Lions	9	0	2	7	6	42	2

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sydney Cosmos	20	12	6	2	45	21	42
Belmore Hercules	21	9	8	4	50	30	35
Ryde City	21	9	8	4	34	18	35
Hills United	21	10	4	7	46	29	34
Penrith Panthers	20	9	5	6	41	34	32
Bathurst '75	20	8	8	4	28	21	32
Auburn United	20	9	5	6	50	54	32
West Wanderers	21	6	5	10	28	39	23
Dulwich Hill	20	6	4	10	23	33	22
Stanmore Hawks	20	5	6	9	29	36	21
Fairfield Bulls	19	5	5	9	34	37	20
Sthn Minotaurs	19	5	5	9	25	37	20
Mt Druitt Town	20	5	5	10	24	55	20
Mt Pritchard	20	3	6	11	22	36	15

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Greystanes	18	11	4	3	39	19	37
Hurstville	19	10	5	4	39	22	35
Concord Juniors	18	9	5	4	41	20	32
Sydney District	18	9	5	4	29	23	32
Alexandria Warrior	18	9	4	5	42	26	31
Trasandinos	18	8	4	6	23	28	28
Parramatta City	18	6	5	7	22	22	23
AC United	18	5	6	7	21	27	21
Liverpool City	19	5	4	10	31	33	19
Prairiewood	18	3	6	9	15	31	15
Uni of NSW	17	1	11	5	19	24	14
Granville G/Isind	17	1	3	13	17	63	6

DIVISION ONE — WOMEN'S FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
NNSW ITC	17	13	3	1	51	11	42
Sydney Cosmos	17	12	1	4	49	18	37
Marconi SC	17	11	3	3	47	17	36
NSW ITC/Penrith	14	8	2	4	34	19	26
St George	15	7	4	4	39	24	25
Sutherland Shire	16	7	3	6	19	23	24
UWS Macarthur	17	6	4	7	22	28	22
Gladesville Raven	18	3	4	11	16	50	13
Blacktown City	16	1	1	14	10	48	4
Macquarie District	17	1	1	15	14	63	4



Paul Okon receiving Belgian Golden Boot



Paul Okon in Club Brugge kit



Eddie Krncevic (L) with Charleroi coach Luka Peruzovic



Krncevic playing for Charleroi

Commonwealth Bank & Schools

COMMONWEALTH BANK CUP (Open Age Boys) RD 6: Kadina 5 Kuring-Gai 0, Glendale 1 Seven Hills 0, Keira 4 Kingsgrove North 1, Westfields 4 Tamworth 0, Concord 3 Delroy 0, Ulladulla 2 Kogarah 1, Colyton 4 Koorringal 0.

COMMONWEALTH BANK SHIELD (Girls) RD 6: Dorrigo 2 Pennant Hills 1, Arthur Phillip 3 Swansea 2, Kingsgrove 2 Mulwaree 0, Westfields 3 Tamworth 2, Riverside Girls 3 Dubbo South 1, Robert Townson 2 West Wallsend 0, Batemans Bay 4 Port Hacking 0, Riverstone 2 Cootamundra 0.

Schools 1996 National Championships

The Australian Secondary Schools Soccer 1996 National Championships are being held in Geelong, Victoria between August 4 and 9.

The first day's matches will be played at Geelong Grammar School with the remainder of the week being played at Stead Park.

A large number of current Australian players have come through the ranks of the schools' Championships including Ned Zelic, Craig Moore, Steve Corica and Peter Tsekenis (scorer of the Olyroos first goal against Saudi Arabia),

Tracy Wheeler, Katrina Boyd and Joanne Peters, just to name a few.

The Australian Soccer Federation's National Director of Coaching and Development, Jim Selby and Australian Institute of Sport coach Steve O'Connor will be attending the Championships, as will a number of State coaches.

During the tournament players will be selected for both the Boys and Girls Australian Representative teams that will tour Great Britain and Europe together in December.

For the first time ever, the Australian Schools teams will play matches on the continent, with matches in Belgium and Italy confirmed so far. Full internationals have been confirmed for Wales, Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

"The Association appreciates the effort and support provided by both the Australian Women's Soccer Association and Australian Soccer Federation with both bodies fully supportive of the National Championships."

National Secretary Chris James said. "Spectators who attend will be sure to see some of the most talented players in Australia."



Mt St Patricks Murwillumbah Squad 1996

BACK ROW: T Birrell, A Cordner, Mr R Conlon, (manager/coach), P Morgan, M Grant, O Van Der Broek, M Reynolds.

FRONT ROW: D Sonnex, J Taylor, J Akehurst, C Burton, O Gilbert, C Edwards, M Heterick.



Kingscliffe squad 1996

BACK ROW: M Greenwood, B Drury, M Waterhouse, L Holt (vc), Mr G Michaels, manager/coach, M Breckenridge, B Hollands, L Craig, A McLachlan, B Warren, J Charlton (capt).

FRONT ROW: J Stoddard, A Dickenson, A Hodgson, C Dutton, P Jackson, L Morley. Absent: S Alcorn.



SOUTH KOREA PRO LEAGUE

— July 25 —

Ulsan	3	Pusan	2
Chonnam	3	Chonan	1

TABLE

Ulsan	15	11	2	2	31	16	35
Pohang	15	9	5	1	23	12	32
Suwon	14	7	3	4	22	15	24
Chonbuk	14	5	4	5	21	21	19
Puchon	14	4	5	5	23	25	17
Chonnam	15	5	2	8	17	26	17
Pusan	16	4	3	9	23	28	15
Anyang	14	3	3	8	19	26	12
Chonan	15	2	5	8	17	25	11

WORLD RESULTS

UKRAINE PREMIER

— June 22 —

CSKA-Borysfen Kiev	0	Dynamo Kiev	1
P Ivano-Frankivsk	0	Vorskla Poltava	2
Nyva Vinnytsya	0	Chor Odessa	0
Dnipro Dnip	2	Krybas Kryvy Rih	1
Metalurg Zaporizhya	2	Torpedo Zaporizhya	0
Zirka-Nibas Kiro	1	Nyva Ternopil	0
Karpaty Lviv	4	K Kremenchuk	0

FINLAND FIRST DIVISION

— July 22 —

Inter	1	MyPa	0
Haka	2	Jazz	3
RoPS	0	TPS	2
VPS	0	FinnPa	0
MP	1	Jaro	3

TABLE

TPS	17	10	4	3	26	17	34
Inter	17	9	4	4	22	14	31
Jaro	16	8	3	5	22	14	27
Jazz	17	7	6	4	26	19	27
MyPa	17	7	3	7	26	23	24
VPS	18	6	5	7	14	15	23
FinnPa	16	5	6	5	17	16	21
HJK	17	6	3	8	19	24	21
Haka	17	5	5	7	19	23	20
Ilves	17	5	5	7	15	21	20
RoPS	17	5	4	8	19	21	19
MP	16	3	2	11	10	28	11

UEFA Cup Preliminary Round — 2nd Leg

Dinaburg (Latvia) 1	Barry Town (Wales) 2
Tarasov (60)	Bike (35), Evans (85)
Attendance: 500	
Barry Town win 2-1 on aggregate.	
CS Grevenmacher (Luxembourg) 2	Dynamo Tbilisi (Georgia) 2 (halftime 1-0).
CS Grevenmacher - Theo Scholten (37th), Jorg Lauer (55th).	
Dynamo Tbilisi - Georgi Kiknadze (48th), Roin Kerdzevadze (71st).	
Attendance: 500.	
Dynamo Tbilisi won 6-2 on aggregate.	

Margveti Zestafoni (Georgia) 0	Sliema Wanderers (Malta) 3 (0-1).
George Galea (14th), Aldrin Muscat (50th), Noel Turner (89th, penalty).	
Attendance: 6,000.	
Sliema Wanderers won 4-3 on aggregate.	

In Baku: Khazri Buzovna (Azerbaijan) 2	Hutnik Krakow (Poland) 2 (2-1).
Khazri - Askan Talov (12th), Pasha Aliyev (37th).	
Hutnik - Zumkowski (17th), Musa Yakhia (85th).	
Attendance: 10,000.	
Hutnik Krakow won 11-2 on aggregate.	

Tirana (Albania) 2	Croatia Zagreb (Croatia) 6 (2-3).
Tirana - Indrid Fortuzi (23th), Alpin Gallo (27th).	
Croatia Zagreb - Igor Cvitanovic (1st), Dario Simic (32rd), Silvio Maric (37th), Jozo Gaspar (56th), Tomislav Rukavina (60th), Daniel Saric (82th).	
Attendance: 1,000.	
Croatia won 10-2 on aggregate.	

In Tiraspol, Moldova: Tiligul Tiraspol (Moldova) 1	Dinamo-93 Minsk (Belarus) 1 (0-1).
Tiraspol - Valery Pogorelov (49th).	
Dinamo-93 Minsk - Andrei Lobanov (10th).	
Attendance: 4,000.	
Dinamo-93 won 4-2 on aggregate.	

Dinamo Minsk (Belarus) 0	Bohemians (Ireland) 0.
Attendance: 8,000.	
Aggregate score 1-1. Dinamo won on away goals rule.	

Shirak Gyumris (Armenia) 2	Anorthosis (Cyprus) 2 (1-1).
Shirak - Ararat Arutyunyan (15th), Arutyun Vartanyan (52nd).	
Anorthosis - Gogic (18th, penatly), Vesko Mihailovic (47th).	
Attendance: 5,000.	
Anorthosis won 6-2 on aggregate.	

FC Kosice (Slovakia) 2	Teuta Drac (Albania) 1 (0-0).
Kosice - Stefan Rusnak (57th, 68th).	
Teuta - Enkelejd Dobi (55th).	
Attendance: 2,700.	
Kosice won 6-2 on aggregate.	

Flora Tallinn (Estonia) 0	Haka (Finland) 1 (0-1).
Valeri Popovich (14th).	
Attendance: 670.	
Haka won 3-2 on aggregate.	

Skonto (Latvia) 3 Newtown (Wales) 0 (1-0) Vitali Astafiev (45th), Konstantin Ivanov (70th) Aleksei Yeliseyev (80th).

Attendance: 3,500.

Skonto won 7-1 on aggregate.

Inkaras Grifas (Lithuania) 1 Slava Sofia (Bulgaria) 1 (1-0).

Inkaras - Darius Matsilevicius (13th, penalty).

Slava - Vladimir Ivanov (84th).

Attendance: 4,000.

Slava won 5-4 on aggregate.

Lokomotiv Sofia (Bulgaria) 6 Neftchi Baku (Azerbaijan) 0 (3-0).

Slavcho Pavlov (18th, 29th), Plamen Mechev (31st), Ivan Radivojevic (51st), Yordan Marinov (71st), Vesselin Gerov (89th).

Attendance: 4,000.

Lokomotiv Sofia won 7-2 on aggregate.

HJK (Finland) 5 Pyunice Yerevan (Armenia) 2 (after extra time, score at 90 minutes 3-1, aggregate score 4-4, halftime 1-1).

HJK - Vesa Vasara (32nd) Erkkka Lehtola (50th) Kalle Lehtinen (86th) Obiora Aniche (97th) Aki Hyrylainen (110th).

Yerevan - Armen Sanamyan (41st) Arsen Avetisyan (103rd).

Attendance: 1,100.

HJK won 6-5 on aggregate.

Vojvodina (Yugoslavia) 4 Portadown (Northern Ireland) 1 (2-0).

Vojvodina - Lericac (10th), Stojak (15th), Milosevski (58th), Cilinsek (87th).

Portadown - Casey (79th).

Attendance: 8,000.

Vojvodina won 5-1 on aggregate.

Floriana (Malta) 1 Betar Jerusalem (Israel) 5 (0-3).

Floriana - Bugagiar (79th).

Betar Jerusalem - David Amsalem (17th), Elilah Ohana (20th), Ronen Harazi (40th), Istvan Salloy (71th), Josef Abukasis (80th) Betar won 8-2 aggregate.

Partizan Belgrade (Yugoslavia) 3 Maccabi Haifa (Israel) 1.

Partizan - Viktor Trenevski (33rd), Nisa Saveljic (52nd), Georgi Hristov (83rd).

Maccabi - Revivo (10th).

Attendance: 10,000.

Partizan won 4-1 on aggregate.

Crusaders (Northern Ireland) 2 Zalgiris Vilnius (Lithuania) 1 (0-1).

Crusaders - Morgan (83rd, 90th).

Zalgiris - Razanauskas (18th).

Attendance: 1,500.

Zalgiris won 3-2 on aggregate.

Gotu Itrottarteflag (Faroe Islands) 0 Jazz (Finland) 1 (0-0) Luiz Antonio Moraes (86th).

Attendance: 1,147.

Jazz won 4-1 on aggregate.

Hajduk Split (Croatia) 2 Zimbru Chisinau (Moldova) 1 (halftime 0-0).

Hajduk Split - Skoko (67th), Butorovic (83rd).

Zimbru Chisinau - Miterev (70th).

Attendance: 10,000.

Hajduk Split won 6-1 on aggregate.

Mura (Slovenia) 2 Becej (Yugoslavia) 0 (1-0).

Skaper (16th, 48th).

Mura win 2-0 on aggregate.

Apoel Nicosia (Cyprus) 4 Sandoyar (Faroe Islands) 2

Apoel win 9-3 on aggregate.

Sileks (Macedonia) 1 Akranes (Iceland) 0 (1-0).

Akranes win 2-1 on aggregate.

Vardar (Macedonia) 2 Hit Gorica (Slovenia) 1 (1-1).

Vardar win 3-1 on aggregate.

AUSTRIA FIRST DIVISION

— JULY 24 —

Austria Vienna	3	Sturm Graz	2
QAK	1	Rapid Vienna	1
SV Salzburg	1	Admira Wacker	0
Linzer ASK	0	SV Ried	0
FC Tirol Innsbruck	2	FC Linz	0

TABLE

Austria Wien	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
FC Tirol Innsbruck	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
SV Salzburg	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Rapid Vienna	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
QAK	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Linzer ASK	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
SV Ried	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Admira Wacker	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
FC Linz	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Sturm Graz	1	0	0	1	2	3	0

WORLD STORIES

Germany's keeper to Marseille

Promoted former European champion Olympique Marseille have further strengthened its squad by signing Germany's Euro 96 goalkeeper Andreas Koepke.

Koepke, who signed a two year contract, joins the French first division club from relegated Bundesliga side Eintracht Frankfurt.

"I have chosen Marseille because I'm sure this club will quickly recover its European standing," said Koepke, who had been destined for Barcelona until his transfer deal fell through at the last minute earlier this month.

Koepke, who helped

Germany to win the European Championship in England last month, had earlier turned down a move to VfB Stuttgart when Barcelona indicated that it was interested.

Marseille was relegated two seasons ago because of its involvement in the Valenciennes bribery scandal and was denied a return a year ago because of financial irregularities.

Marseille, which signed French international midfielder Reynald Pedros earlier in the off-season, has agreed terms with 22-year-old defender Chris Makin of English first division Oldham Athletic and expect to sign him next weekend.

Stoichkov demands resignations

Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov has accused his country's soccer chiefs of cheating their players and has demanded their resignations.

"The current bosses are unworthy of Bulgarian football. They are cheating us all the time," Stoichkov told state television over the weekend.

And local media reported that the volatile striker would quit the national squad if top officials from the Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) did not stand down.

Stoichkov, visiting Sofia after signing for Barcelona in a deal which takes him back to the Spanish club after an unhappy year at Italy's Parma, criticised the BFU for axing former coach Dimitar Penev and dropping his nephew Lyuboslav Penev from the national team.

Dimitar Penev took Bulgaria to the semifinals of the World Cup for the first time in their history in 1994, but under his management at the European Championships last month the side failed to progress past the first round.

He was heavily criticised for playing his nephew in all three matches, particularly after Lyuboslav Penev scored an own goal in Bulgaria's 3-1

defeat by France.

The BFU refused to renew the coach's contract earlier this month, and dropped Lyuboslav Penev for insulting his Euro 96 critics on state television.

Stoichkov, the 1994 European footballer of the year, said the BFU had also lied to the players about the origin of European Championship team equipment, which he said appeared to be produced in Bulgaria but was not.

BFU president Ivan Slavkov, currently in Atlanta for the Olympic Games, told Bulgarian reporters that Stoichkov had promised not to quit the national team, despite media reports to the contrary.

Bulgaria's next competitive match is a World Cup qualifier in Israel on September 1.

BFU acting secretary-general Ivan Vutsov said it was not Stoichkov's business to appoint or sack the union's executive.

"I bow before footballer Stoichkov for his performance at the European Championship but we will not cry if he decides not to go to Israel with us," Vutsov told the daily Football newspaper.



Stoichkov: Wants Bulgarian officials removed.

Italians defend their efforts

There have been bitter recriminations in the Italian Olympic camp over the country's humiliating defeat in the Games.

Other Italian teams, led by the volleyball delegation, have accused the footballers of playing as though they were on holiday in the USA.

The footballers, many of whom were in the squad that won the European Under 21 championship, will also return home to some scathing headlines and coach Cesare Maldini may not now get his expected promotion to the full national side.

Defender Fabio Cannavaro hit back today while other players insisted they had taken the Olympics seriously despite losing 1-0 to Mexico and 3-2 to Ghana.

Even the 2-1 win over South Korea yesterday was less than clear cut.

"I think the other athletes should concentrate on their own sports," said the Napoli player.

"If someone in volleyball fails their

objectives, I would not criticise them." But he admitted the defeat to Mexico had been "a stressful time."

"We paid the consequences. Our mistake was that we played for a draw."

His Napoli teammate Raffaele Ametrano insisted "the Olympics were not a vacation for us. My vacation was before the Games."

Massimo Crippa of Pavia said: "We have no regrets about the Olympics. We tried our best in the first two matches. We are sorry we lost, but it is just a sport."

"We are used to being heroes but now we are eliminated from the Olympics. It has been a long year but that is no excuse - these are the Olympics."

The Olympic team coach had been strongly tipped to take over from Arrigo Sacchi who is expected to pay with his job for the national team's failure at the European Championship.

Maldini's chances have dimmed considerably with the new defeats.

Paul Okon receives support

BY GERRY VAN DUURAN

On June 23rd of this year Paul Okon and his family, that is mother, father and brother left for Rome, Italy to start a new life. His family left to support Paul in Italy. They will be there at least until Christmas this year.

Obviously it is to help Paul experience a smoother transition into his new role as sweeper for Lazio.

Paul chose Lazio over PSV Eindhoven in order to gain more experience in toughness and to gauge how good he really is as the Calcio is considered one of the toughest leagues in the world.

PSV was interested even before Paul won the Golden Boot award in Belgium (see front and pg. 12 of this issue).

Financially he would have been well rewarded and to the extent where he

wanted a house to live in, PSV would have gone to the trouble to find him one.

Paul thought their approach to be most professional.

However the thought of having to play against weaker opposition and the dream of wanting to play in Italy persuaded him to choose Lazio.

Back home in Australia he showed his good manners and also the fact that he is still the same boy from Bossley Park by throwing a "thank you" party for all the people who supported him through the years, such as his friends, relatives and people such as Dr Vince Sorrenti, orthopaedic surgeon.

I am sure that as the first Australian to play for a high profile club in Italy we would like to see him do well and become an even bigger star who can play and hold his own against the best in the world.

Toulouse, City of the Future

The fourth largest city in France, Toulouse is home to 365,000 people in the city itself (and over 650,000 in the urban agglomeration) as well as being the capital of the Midi-Pyrenees region, which comprises the department of Ariège, Gers, Haute-Garonne, Lot, Hautes-Pyrenees, Tarn, Aveyron and Tarn-et-Garonne. It is a cultural, university and industrial centre all at the same time.

Situated in the southwest of France, some 250 kilometers from the Atlantic Ocean, 150 kilometers from the Mediterranean and 110 kilometers from the Pyrenees mountain range, Toulouse can look back on twenty-four centuries of rich and varied history. The town had linked to the Roman Empire as early as the second century BC and became the centre of the Visigoth empire in the fifth century A.D.

Later the events of the Catur epoch had a profound impact on the town's history, and Toulouse rebelled against the royal authority. Not being

rich in natural resources, Toulouse was little affected by the industrial revolution in the 19th century, and had to wait until the second half of the 20th before its industry began to take off, almost literally, since its strength is in aeronautics and space technology.

The red brick buildings, carefully restored, give the town a unique colour and ambience, leading to its being called "La Ville Rose".

The

student city

But its main claim to fame is definitely its forward-looking industry. The city today is one of the major centres of French technology, the capital of the European aerospace industry, the second most important aviation centre in the world - birth place of such prestigious projects as the Caravelle, the Concorde, the Airbus and the Ariane rocket.

With four campuses, sixteen institutes and three hundred affiliated

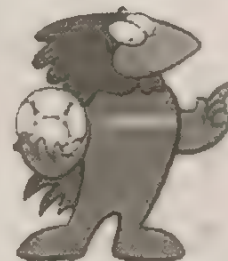
laboratories, the University of Toulouse is among the best in Europe in terms of research and teaching material.

Football, rugby and fine food

Toulouse is a city abounding with works of art. It is also very welcoming to visitors, with more than 200 hotels and over 8,800 beds.

The sporting side is not neglected either; rugby and football, both very popular in the region, exist side by side in complete harmony.

And then its gastronomy: the Toulouse area has a strong reputation in this respect too, which is saying a lot in a country that pays a lot of attention to its food.



Croatian Corner

By John Viskovich

Zvonimir Soldo has joined VfB Stuttgart in the German Bundesliga for \$31.5 million from Croatia Zagreb. The 28 year old Libero performed well at Euro 96 when called upon as a substitute and was rewarded with a good contract abroad.

Other Croats moving to and in Germany include Mamic who joins Bochum from Croatia Zagreb for \$3420,000 as does Robert Kovac who joins Bayer Leverkusen from Nuremberg for the same amount.

Milan Rapaić has joined newly promoted Serie A Club Perugia in Italy. The former Hajduk Split midfielder will be given the role of playmaker and provider to new Dutch signing Michel Kreek from Padova.

Zoran Ban is back in Italy and will play for Serie B outfit Pescara next season. This time Juventus have sold him. After they kept him on their books for three years and gave him long loan spells at Boavista and Belenses in Portugal. Ban only played six full matches for Juventus in 93 and was only 19 years of age when he debuted in the Serie A.

His name is one to remember as many tip the young striker to be the next Davok Suker as he too is a regular goalscorer.

Mario Stanic is still talking to Serie A Club Fiorentina and is close to signing on the other hand the Italian media have announced his arrival to the fans which means its 100% that he is leaving Belgium's F.C. Brugge.

Dario Simic is not for sale to Ajax Amsterdam as the club fear a mass walk out. Croatia Zagreb's coach Otto Baric wants to keep the rest of the squad and Simic has been told to honour his contract which is for one more year.

The Croatian club have realistic ambitions in the UEFA Cup and believe Dario must be part of the club in order to have some sort of success. Sadly for Simic Ajax were in Zagreb with the cheque book and were told to go back to Holland without the young Croat.

Robert Jarni (right) has reached his life long ambition to play in England and will do so for Arsenal leaving Real Betis of Spain. He should partner Bergkamp. He is now in the prime of his career and at 28 years of age has a long list of credits which include: 1987 World Youth Championship Winner in Chile; 1990 World Cup Quarter Finalist in Italy; 1991 Cup Winner with Hajduk Split in F.Y.; 1992 Played in Serie A with Bari and Torino; 1994-95 Serie A Champion with Juventus playing along side Vialli and Baggio; 1995-96 Moved to Real Betis, Spain.



Robert Prosinecki (below) is very likely to leave Barcelona and the front runner (i.e. the club offering the most money) to sign him is Seville. Although many people including his father Duro believe it would be a good move, Prosinecki doesn't want to join a club Davor Suker left. While he is still unsure of saying "Adios Amigo" to Barcelona he has made a statement that he and Alen Boksic will not play for Croatia while Miroslav Blazevic is coach. It seems the rumours were true that the two players were not injured as stated to the public but dropped by Blazevic at Euro 96. Leaving out Prosinecki, and Boksic against Germany and Boksic out of the Denmark and Portugal match which should see more Blazevic hatred as he clearly kept Croatia out of a semi final from poor choice of tactics. Showing no love lost for the two, Blazevic always indicated even before Euro 96 that Vlaovic will replace Boksic while Stanic will replace Prosinecki in Euro 96 and after.

In this Blazevic is the winner as he remains coach of Croatia till France 98 and surely by then Boksic and Prosinecki will be desperate to get back in the team any way possible.



Mirsad Hibić has signed for Seville in Spain while his former Hajduk Split teammates are already training with their new teams, Nenad Pralija with Espanol and Mario Mestrovic with Rayo Vallecano.

Marko Mlinaric is still playing for Croatia Zagreb, at the age of 36. He has signed for one more year with the club. He played for the club way back when it won the title in 82 and played with the then young Eddie Krncevic who has the up and coming star of Aussie soccer. In a case of 'deja vu' he now plays with another young, up and coming star Marko Viduka also from Australia. Let's hope Viduka can at least match the feats Krncevic had overseas even though then it was much harder for an Aussie in Europe than it is today (see page 13 for colour pictures of Krncevic).

Sydney United touring Croatia had a surprising 3:2 loss to Siroki Brijeg, a second division team. Goals came from David Zoric and Jacobs. This was followed by second loss 0:1 to former A league club Neretva. The results probably proves United is in Croatia for a holiday.

For more Croatian Sports News and a good laugh tune into CRO 2000 with legendary host Ante Grabovec. The program is broadcast in English on Sydney 98.5FM at 8.50pm Wednesdays. Don't Miss It!



Victorian Ladders



PREMIER LEAGUE LADDER

FIRSTS									
P	W	D	L	F	A	PT			
Heidelberg Utd	23	15	4	4	57	25	49		
Altona Gate	23	16	1	6	54	24	49		
Sunshine GX	23	15	3	5	35	24	48		
Bentleigh Green	23	14	4	5	44	25	46		
Thomastown Zeb.	23	13	5	5	44	29	44		
Green Gully	23	10	9	4	40	28	39		
Port Melbourne	23	10	8	5	53	37	38		
Bulleen	28	8	7	8	31	35	31		
North Geelong	23	7	5	11	25	39	26		
Box Hill Inter	23	5	5	13	25	50	20		
St Albans	23	4	4	15	25	45	16		
Albion	23	3	6	14	20	40	15		
Fawkner	23	3	5	15	19	45	14		
Springvale City	23	3	4	16	25	51	13		

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Heidelberg Utd	22	16	0	6	67	40	48
Thomastown	22	14	4	4	53	20	46
Bulleen	23	14	2	7	58	29	44
Port Melbourne	23	13	5	5	49	25	44
Sunshine G.X.	22	9	9	4	42	34	36
Bentleigh Green	21	11	3	7	51	44	36
Green Gully	22	9	5	8	43	35	32
Fawkner	22	8	4	10	34	48	28
Box Hill Inter	22	7	5	10	37	45	26
Springvale City	23	6	7	10	47	49	25
Altona Gate	22	9	3	12	42	52	24
Albion	23	6	2	15	35	72	20
St Albans	22	4	7	11	24	39	19
North Geelong	23	3	2	18	22	71	11

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sp White Eagles	19	13	3	3	41	18	42
Preston Lions	19	11	6	2	31	12	39
West Suburbs	19	10	5	4	25	16	35
Kings City	19	8	9	2	25	18	35
Richmond	18	8	8	2	34	22	32
Lalor Utd	19	8	5	6	44	34	29
C'don City Dons	19	7	6	6	35	22	27
Moorabbin City	18	6	5	7	20	23	23
Werribee City	19	6	4	9	25	24	22
Westgate	19	5	6	8	32	34	21
Don'ster Rovers	19	4	8	7	23	28	20
Northcote City	18	3	5	10	15	31	14
Broadmeadows	18	4	2	12	20	46	14
Glen Eira City	19	1	2	16	12	54	5

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Preston	15	12	1	2	41	13	37
Werribee City	18	11	4	3	35	23	37
Croydon City	18	11	2	5	43	25	35
Moorabbin City	17	10	4	3	45	20	34
Don'ster Rovers	19	11	1	7	43	31	34
Kings City	19	9	3	7	46	31	30
Richmond	15	9	3	3	29	15	30
Lalor United	18	7	1	10	41	33	22
Sp White Eagles	18	7	1	10	45	40	22
West Suburbs	16	5	2	9	32	42	17
Northcote City	16	5	1	10	16	49	16
Glen Eira City	19	4	2	13	24	56	14
Westgate	17	4	0	13	14	49	12
Broadmeadows	15	2	1	12	12	39	7

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Westvale	19	16	1	2	76	21	46
Altona East	19	11	5	3	38	22	38
Sth Dandenong	19	11	3	5	44	26	36
Waverley City	19	9	4	6	45	38	31
Altona City	18	9	3	6	33	18	30
Ess Brun Royals	19	7	7	5	19	18	28
Frankston Pines	19	6	7	6	27	25	25
East Richmond	18	6	4	8	30	27	22
Knox City	19	5	7	7	25	36	22
Regent Bulla	19	4	8	7	18	32	20
Oakland	19	3	8	8	20	47	17
Nunawading City	19	3	6	10	18	52	15

Bell Park	18	3	4	11	17	30	13
Mooroolbark	18	3	3	12	23	41	12

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Frankston Pines	18	14	2	2	41	15	44
Ess Brun Royals	19	11	3	5	50	20	36
Waverley City	18	11	1	6	55	32	34
Altona City	17	11	0	6	43	27	33
Oakland	19	8	1	10	51	39	25
Knox City	19	7	4	8	36	38	25
East Richmond	18	6	6	6	29	27	24
Mooroolbark	17	6	6	5	31	33	24
Regent Bulla	18	8	0	10	36	50	24
Westvale	19	7	5	7	31	30	23
Altona East	19	6	5	8	34	37	23
Sth Dandenong	19	5	3	11	33	51	18
Nunawading City	18	4	3	11	27	46	15
Bell Park	18	2	5	11	24	76	11

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 3

FIRSTS

Frankston	19	15	1	3	67	24	46
Ringwood City	18	11	5	2	51	14	38
Sth Springvale	18	11	2	5	46	24	35
Cranbourne	19	10	4	5	32	20	34
Dia Valley Utd	18	11	1	6	26	23	34
Fitzroy City	17	7	4	6	29	23	25
Pascoe Vale	18	7	4	7	22	24	25
Sth Werribee	18	6	6	6	38	32	24
Sth Caulfield	19	8	2	9	36	39	23
Melb City	19	4	6	9	25	33	18
Keilor Eagles	19	4	6	9	16	27	18
Banyule	19	4	6	9	25	43	18
Chelsea	19	3	4	12	27	76	13
Clifton Hill	18	1	3	14	12	50	6

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Cranbourne	19	15	3	1	81	14	48
Ringwood City	18	15	1	2	67	15	46
Keilor Eagles	18	13	3	2	49	17	42
Sth Springvale	17	10	2	5	46	21	32
Dia Valley Utd	18	10	2	6	51	30	32
Fitzroy City	18	8	5	5	39	32	29
Frankston	19	8	4	7	67	37	28
Melb City	18	6	5	7	32	30	23
Pascoe Vale	18	7	1	10	32	42	22
Sth Werribee	17	6	3	8	33	56	21
Sth Caulfield	19	4	5	10	23	36	14
Banyule	18	4	2	12	37	66	14
Chelsea	19	2	1	16	23	75	7
Clifton Hill	18	0	1	17	6	115	1

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 4

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Yarraville	18	13	3	2	42	18	42
Geelong	19	11	6	2	42	23	39
Sun Heights	19	12	2	5	41	20	38
Stonnington	19	11	2	6	40	24	35
Nth Coburg Utd	19	11	2	6	47	32	35
Lalor	18	8	4	6	34	25	28
Langwarrin	19	7	5	7	41	31	26
Sunbury Utd	19	7	5	7	25	26	26
Monbulk	19	6	7	6	20	23	25
Seaford Utd	19	7	1	11	25	36	22
Moreland City	19	5	3	11	25	35	18
Williamstown	19	4	5	10	25	37	17
Corio	19	4	3	12	20	42	15
San'ham City	19	1	2	16	12	61	5

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Langwarrin	19	15	2	2	69	19	47
Sunbury Utd	19	13	2	4	30	17	41
Sun Heights	18	11	4	3	49	14	37
Stonnington	18	10	3	5	40	26	33
Nth Coburg Utd	18	10	2	6	53	38	32
Lalor	17	8	6	3	36	27	30
Seaford Utd	19	7	6	6	45	32	27
Yarraville	17	7	5	5	37	25	26
Moreland City	18	6	2	10	31	33	20
Monbulk	19	5	5	9	21	35	20
Geelong	19	4	4	11	21	56	16
Corio	19	3	6	10	22	41	15

San'ham City	19	3	1	15	22	56	10
Williamstown	19	1	4	14	20	67	7

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

FIRSTS

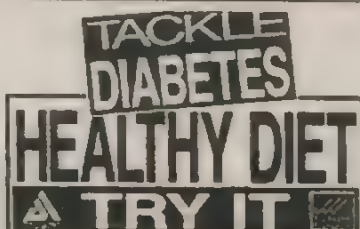
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Keysborough	17	12	1	4	34	14	37
Geel Rangers	17	11	3	3	47	19	36
Melton	17	10	4	3	33	15	34
Sth Wantirna	16	10	2	4	39	19	32
Sp'vale Condors	16	9	6	1	32	19	30
Nth Sunshine	17	8	3	6	32	25	27
Knox Park	17	7	3	7	34	30	24
Mitcham Utd	16	7	1	8	28	28	22
Mornington	16	6	2	8	19	35	20
Glenroy	17	4	5	8	25	34	17
Doveton	17	4	5	8	20	29	17
Old Scotch-Haw	17	4	3	10	18	22	15
Ballarat	17	3	3	11	13	37	12
Heidelberg City	17	1	1	15	9	57	4

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knox Park	17	9	5	3	41	20	32
Mitcham Utd	15	9	3	3	47	27	30
Mornington	16	9	3	4	26	24	30
Melton	17	9	2	6	29	22	29
Glenroy	16	8	3	5	42	28	27
Nth Sunshine	16	8	3	5	25	26	27
Sp'vale Condors	15	8	2	5	42	25	23
Ballarat	15	7	1	7	28	28	22
Geel Rangers	17	6	3	8	29	36	21
Sth Wantima	15	4	5	6	20	25	17
Keysborough	16	4	2	10	29	38	14
Heidelberg City	14	3	4	7	15	38	13
Old Scotch-Haw	16	2	6	8	28	39	12
Doveton	15	2	3	10	17	41	9



DIABETES
AUSTRALIA
VICTORIA



TACKLE DIABETES



PREMIER LEAGUE — ROUND 24

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1996

Springvale City Vales v St Albans Saints
(2nd: 6.30pm/1st: 8.30pm)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

(2nd: 1.00pm/1st: 3.00pm)

Bulleen Lions v Sunshine Georgies
Altona Magic v Green Gully Cavaliers
Fawkner Blues v Box Hill Inter
Heidelberg United v Thomastown Zebras
Albion Redsox v Bentleigh Greens
Nth Geelong Warriors v Pt Melb Sharks

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 RD 20

Northcote City v S'vale Wht Eagles
Moorabbin City v Doncaster Rovers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

Werribee City v Br'meadows City
Croydon City v Glen Eira City
Lalor Utd v Westgate
Kingston City v Richmond
Western Suburbs v Preston Lions

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 RD 20

Nunawading City v Bell Park
Frankston Pines v Altona East
Ess. Bruns. Royals v Knox City
East Richmond v Regent-Bulla
Oakleigh v Westvale
Sth Dandenong v Mooroolbark
Waverley City v Altona City

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 RD 20

Keilor Eagles v Chelsea
Melb City v Pascoe Vale
South Caulfield v Clifton Hill
Diamond Valley v Banyule City
Frankston v South Springvale
Cranbourne v Ringwood City
Fitzroy City v South Werribee

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Lalor v Corio
Yarraville v Langwarrin
Sandringham City v Monbulk
Sunbury Utd v Stonnington City
Williamstown v Moreland City
Geelong v Seaford Utd
Sunshine Heights v Nth Coburg Utd

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 RD 18

Knox Park v Keysborough
Ballarat v Nth Sunshine
Doveon v Glenroy
Old Scotch/Hawt v Heidelberg City
Geelong Rangers v Sth Warrimba
Melton v Mornington
S'vale Condors v Mitcham Utd

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Braeside Utd v East Nun Eagles
Dandenong v Brunswick City
Brandon Park v Hampton Park Utd
Nth Glenroy v South Yarra
Croxtan v Lyndale Utd
Endeavour Utd v Berwick City
Hoppers Crossing v Meadow Park

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

METROPOLITAN

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 RD 16

Br'meadows Utd v Keilor Utd
Monash Uni v Melb. Uni Rangers
Ashburton v Parkmore
Uni Melb. Blues v Ringwood Rovers
Elwood City v Riversdale
Newb/Yallourn v T'stowe Eagles

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

SOUTH/EAST/CENTRAL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

East Kew v Yarra Utd
Collingwood City v Endeavour Hills
Cam. Gr. Old Boys v Nth Caulfield
Wav. Wanderers v Oakleigh Utd
Thornbury v Noble Park
Ivanhoe Utd v Flem. Falcons

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

NORTHWEST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4 RD 16

Keon Park v Latrobe Uni
Diamond Valley v Mill Park
Darebin Utd v Nth Reservoir
West Preston v Northern Utd
Upfield v Sunshine Park
Whittlesea Utd v Sydenham Park

BENTLEIGH 1

PT MELBOURNE 3

BY G VASILADIS

Port Melbourne gained another valuable three points to keep them in with a slight chance of making the finals with a well deserved 3-0 win over Bentleigh Greens.

Port Melbourne had an impact on the scoreboard in the 18th minute when a Nick Tsaltas cross was met by Alex Duric who's close range header found the back of the net.

Port were well on top in the opening stanza not giving the understrength Bentleigh who were missing six regulars minimal chances.

Bentleigh equalised in the 62nd minute when a George Kalimeris cross was met by an unmarked John Papettas at the far post to beat former Greens keeper Jim Kouritis.

Alex Efstathiou let fly with a thunderous strike which forced keeper Chris Jones to block the shot, Duric followed to score from close range.

Tsaltas played provider once again, this time setting up substitute Bill Mitroulas who easily tapped the ball into the back of the goal.

Greens: Jones, Drakos, Bakker, Constantinou, Theoharous, Kotsovolos (Christou), Kalimeris, Rossios, Crivari, Papettas, Carey (Argiros).

Sharks: Kouritis, Latinopoulos, Kyriakopoulos (Livanopoulos), Bell, Palamaras, Duric, Hastie (Mitroulas), Efstathiou, Gotis (Karakyriakos), Papadopoulos, Tsaltas.

Referee: Andrew Stacey.
Votes: 3 — Duric (Sharks); 2 — Bakker (Greens); 1 — Kouritis (Sharks).

BULLEEN 1

NTH GEELONG 0

BY D TUFFNELL

With only pride at stake, the Bulleen Lions beat North Geelong Warriors 1-0 in a disappointing game at the Beneto Club.

The only goal of the game arrived in the 70th minute via a Gerry McAleer header from Anthony Grbac's near post corner.

The Warriors, with only Mijo Trupkovic up front, rarely threatened and produced their best chance four minutes into injury time when just a touch was needed to George Dimovski's bullet like cross.

Dimovski had an earlier opportunity when Trupkovic sent him away with only Jeff Olver to beat. The veteran 'keeper prevailed but was

substituted shortly after by Anton Cizmadija following the incident.

North Geelong showed none of their early season form which looked so promising whilst Bulleen will miss out on the finals series for the first time ever.

Lions: Olver (Cizmadija), Valentis, Stojcevski, McAleer, White, Grbac, Di Iorio, Everetts, Catalano (Tsiakos), Liparoti, Barbieri.

Warriors: Joe Didulica, Bot, Rajher, Medved, Cosic, McAuliffe, Deak, Dimovski, Trupkovic, Skoko, Pannetta.

Referee: Juergen Annuss.

Votes: 3 — Stojcevski (Lions); 2 — Rajher (Warriors); 1 — McAuliffe (Warriors).

SUNSHINE 1

ALTONA 2

BY MICHAEL ZAPPONE
A last minute strike by midfielder Sava Rusmir propelled the Altona Magic into second spot on the table.

In a tightly contested encounter, the Magic shocked the home crowd with a well worked corner headed in by Simon Micevski in the 15th minute.

The Georgies equalised ten minutes later when an Anthony Cassar shot from a tight angle on the right was deflected into the net by Robert Runje.

The second half was much like the first. Tight, uneventful and lacking inspiration.

The inspiration came in the 80th minute for Altona when midfielder Henry Velkovski was sent off by referee Nestor Zachiriadis for a second bookable offence.

The intensity of the game picked up and in the 89th minute Rusmir rounded off good work from Nick Georgopoulos and Sash Becvinovski, who were quiet all day, to slot home the winner.

Georgies: Wardle, Kanesoulis, Makris, Field, Nilo, Vassallo, Cassar, Tsirtsakis, De La Plaza (Dragicevic), De Bono, Tountas (Stojanovski).

Magic: McGrath, Atanasovski, Tasevski, Runje, Micevski, Markovski, Rusmir, Georgopoulos, Becvinovski, Cvetkovski, Velkovski (sent off).

Referee: Nestor Zachiriadis.

Votes: 3 — Cvetkovski (Magic); 2 — Tasevski (Magic); 1 — Kanesoulis (Georgies).

BOX HILL 0

HEIDELBERG 5

BY ANTHONY PELUSO

Heidelberg bounced back to form with an outstanding 5-0 win over a disappointing Box Hill at Wembley Park.

As early as in the 2nd minute Dean Fak put Heidelberg up 1-0 in a goal mouth scramble. United doubled their lead in the 27th minute when Michael Tyrikos slotted the ball home, which was followed by a Brian McNicol goal in the 36th minute after good lead work by Tyrikos.

More of the same followed in the second half when in the 59th minute, Dean Fak scored his second from a header.

Andrew Vlahos troubled the score attendants in the 82nd minute when he was faced with a one on one situation to slot the ball past Keogh to make the score 5-0 and to give Heidelberg league leadership again.

Inter: Keogh, Pansino, Lennon, Tartaglia (Chirico), Dal Ben, Marcen, Zilic (Gugliemi), Tsakiris, Castro, Roodhouse, Guscic.

United: Clarke (Gal), Fak, Iosifidis, Scott, Hasler, Koutos (Tsoumerkias), McNicol (Stefanidis), Vlahos, Boutsianis, Tyrikos.

Referee: Ilosein Mohammadi.

Votes: 3 — Svigos (United); 2 — Boutsianis (United); 1 — Tyrikos (United).

ST ALBANS 1

ALBION 1

BY JOHN RIGAS

Albion Redsox scored a valuable penalty two minutes from full time, against St. Albans Saints to gain a point which steers them one point clear of the relegation zone.

A first half dominated by St. Albans provided many clear cut chances with Tom Pondeljak, Mick Colina and Josip Markovac being the main culprits.

The Saints scored a deserved goal in the 58th minute when defender Damir Organovic slammed his powerful strike past Robert Brian from an acute angle.

A dangerous Carlos Retre cross was tapped onto the crossbar by St. Albans goalkeeper Marijan Vunderl in the 61st minute to maintain the Saints' lead.

Sensations continued in the 88th minute when Albion were awarded a penalty. A strike from the Redsox was goal bound when St. Albans substitute Slavko Rados handled the ball preventing Albion to equalise.

Rados was shown his marching orders for the offence Albion captain Claude Lucchesi converted his fourth spot kick of the season.

Saints: Vunderl, Movric (I. Rados), Graganovic, Razov, Colina, Pondeljak, Magdic, Jolic, Gagula, Pelja (S. Rados sent off) Markovac.

Redsox: Brian, Gupinar, Lucchesi, Grimuad, Osman, Collins, McMinimee, Patsaman Sevin, Retre (Scrobogna), Geri (Carter).

Referee: Gerry Connolly.

Votes: 3 — Grganovic (Saints); 2 — Osman (Redsox); 1 — Brian (Redsox).

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 23 RESULTS

Bentleigh Greens 1 (Papettas) — Port Melbourne Sharks 3 (Duric 2, Mitroulas)
Bulleen Lions 1 (McAleer) — North Geelong Warriors 0
St Albans Saints 1 (Organovic) — Albion Redsox 1 (Lucchesi)
Thomastown Zebras 2 (Tricarico 2) — Springvale City Vales 1 (D. Grella)
Box Hill Inter 0 — Heidelberg United 5 (Fak 2, Tyrikos, Macnicol, Vlahos)
Green Gully Cavaliers 3 (Waddell 2, Neceski) — Fawkner Blues 0
Sunshine Georgies 1 (og) — Altona Magic 2 (Micevski, Rusmir)

LEADING GOALSCORERS

22 Despotovski (Heidelberg)
17 Becvinovski (Altona)
15 Zinni (Thomastown)
13 Nilo (Sunshine)

PASCOE VALE SPORTS SCENE

TOP VOTES

25 — Alagiozidis (Bentleigh)
18 — Cassar (Sunshine)
Cosic (North Geelong)
17 — Ngata (Thomastown)
Rusmir (Altona)
16 — Bell (Port Melbourne)
15 — Georgiadis (Heidelberg)
Becvinovski (Altona)

THOMASTOWN 2

SPRINGVALE 1

BY N TZAHERIS

A late strike by Zebra Joe Tricarico virtually ensured that Thomastown will hold on to their finals position and kept Springvale planted at the foot of the table.

The Zebras victory, which looked unlikely early on, maintains their comfortable five point break over sixth placed Green Gully.

Tricarico's 88th minute winner was Thomastown's second of the afternoon after an enthralling dual with the Vales defence.

Springvale got no reward for an enterprising showing which began supremely when David Grella headed in the games opener after just 90 seconds.

Thomastown's second half effort was much better however and Tricarico scored a simple equaliser ten minutes into the half when a long Paul Della Rocca clearance bounced off the crossbar and at his feet.

The late winner was a product of an efficient finish from Tricarico after he met a cross from Klaus Bichler.

Zebras: Raponi, Banini, Angelovski (Cracium), Karic, Della Rocca, Gnjicic (Lazarevski), Tricarico, Mazzini, Iacovitti (Bichler), Boschini, Ngata.

Vales: Christov, Lettieri, De La Plaza (Dell'Aquila), Razzi, Campagna, Impellizzeri, D. Grella, Lancaster, A. Vargas, V. Grella, R. Vargas.

Referee: Jim Markovski.

Votes: 3 — Tricarico (Zebras); 2 — Lettieri (Vales); 1 — Banini (Zebras).

GREEN GULLY 3

FAWKNER 0

BY LUKE GUTTIGIEG

The Green Gully Cavaliers kept their slim finals chances alive on Sunday, with a 3-0 win in a spiteful clash with Fawkner Blues. Severely hampered by first half injuries to Michael Branov and Ollie Pondeljak Fawkner found themselves 0-2 down after twenty minutes.

John Waddell easily converted a 16th minute penalty resulting from a heavy clash between Eric Janssen and Vlad Babic, with Janssen lucky not to be sent off.

One minute later, Waddell again beat Janssen, this time with a free kick from just outside the penalty area.

The second half was played at a slower pace Janssen the third Blue off injured and Cavalier substitute Peter Stojcevski given his marching orders.

Janssen's replacement Damien Beattie fumbled a one handed pick up, allowing Tony Neceski to round out the scoring in the 92nd minute.

Warren Spink's loan stint with Gully is over after foot surgery while Craig Crodden has a suspected broken leg from Sunday's game.

Cavaliers: Vella, Spiteri, Douglas, Cimino, Waddell, Markovski, Suric, Chetcuti, Neceski, Babic, Crodden (Stojcevski sent off).

Blues: Janssen (Beattie), Ferla, Bordignon, Mihocic, Vaslijadis, Stevanovic, Branov (De Santis), Tramontana, Minichello, Bothwell, Pondeljak (Tortevski).

Referee: Vince Celestino.

Votes: 3 — Babic (Cavaliers); 2 — Spiteri (Cavaliers); 1 — Markovski (Cavaliers).

NEXT WEEKS FIXTURES

FRIDAY AUGUST 2

Springvale City Vales v St Albans Saints

(Kick off 8.30pm)

SUNDAY AUGUST 4

Bulleen Lions v Sunshine Georgies
Altona Magic v Green Gully Cavaliers
Fawkner Blues v Box Hill Inter
Heidelberg United v Thomastown Zebras
Albion Redsox v Bentleigh Greens
Nth Geelong Warriors v Pt Melb Sharks



CARLTON GOING AHEAD

BY CON STAVROS

Carlton Soccer Club will announce a special three man panel shortly that will guide their entry into the Australian soccer scene for the 1997/98 season.

With the first match at the converted Optus Oval in the inner Melbourne suburb of Carlton still well over fourteen months away, the brash challenge from the nursery of what is arguably Australia's most successful sporting club looks set to be a legitimate blockbuster.

"We never take anything on unless it's going to be done properly," says Carlton Football Club marketing manager Athol Hodgetts.

"The long lead-up time that we have to get ready is something that we need and want to get things done properly."

The club, which will follow this seasons entry of the Collingwood backed Warriors into the league, is already making huge waves with a preliminary budget of \$2 million suggested in some circles.

"That figure includes start-up costs and other things," explains Hodgetts, "we will be very careful in the way we spend our money."

Carlton's launch of a foundation membership scheme and details of their entry have been made public early in order to quell any doubts about the clubs commitment to the venture says Hodgetts.

"There was some speculation about whether we were going to be involved or not and we wanted to clear that up."

Hodgetts also wanted to clear up the issue that the Carlton social club will operate the team, as opposed to the actual football team in accordance with Australian Football League (AFL) guidelines that appear to prohibit the promotion or close association with a rival sport.

That semantic difference aside however, the venture has the full backing of the club board and according to Hodgetts, the mass appeal of the fans.

**Crowds of
twelve
thousand**

"We expect to get between seven to twelve thousand people to our games and in fact some soccer people have suggested we'll get even more," says Hodgetts.

"Obviously we will try and build on that. I haven't spoken to anyone (at Carlton) or in the general public who has had one negative thing to say about it."

The first task the club will undertake in the next few weeks will be the announcement of a special three man soccer advisory board made up of high profile figures in the sport.

That panel will have the first-up job of selecting a general manager for the club and a coach.

Hodgetts has already begun working on sponsorship for the club, which shouldn't be a problem for a football team that has long been regarded as the

wealthiest in the country.

Renowned for its association with big business, Carlton also is a traditional favourite team of the large Italian community in Melbourne, making it a likely source of attraction to a large mass of disenfranchised fans.

Optus Oval for home games

The club will play its home matches at Optus Oval (formerly known as Princes Park), which is a short tram ride from the centre of the city and just a casual stroll from famous Lygon Street — the entertainment hub of the Italian community.

Matches will be played at 5.00pm on Saturday evenings, with resident objections having spoilt numerous attempts by the football club to install floodlights at the ground over the years.

A major venue for AFL matches, the oval would be converted from its normal East-West direction to a North-South pitch for soccer.

"We are planning something special for the pitch," says Hodgetts, who is aware of criticism of soccer grounds being laid out on massive football fields.

Three sides of the ground will be served by stands, with corporate facilities at both the side and behind the goals. The open side of the pitch is likely to have extensive signage creating a closed-in atmosphere, with the possibility of mural type crowd scenes used and on-field corporate boxes.

Soccer Australia have made a special dispensation to the club over the normal mandatory floodlight requirements, which Hodgetts believes is fair given the effort being put into the entry of the club.

"We don't have floodlights, but Soccer Australia understand that we are very credible in what we are doing and some consideration has to be allowed in what we are doing along the way."

"We believe that there is a real market for games at 5.00pm on a Saturday afternoon in Melbourne."

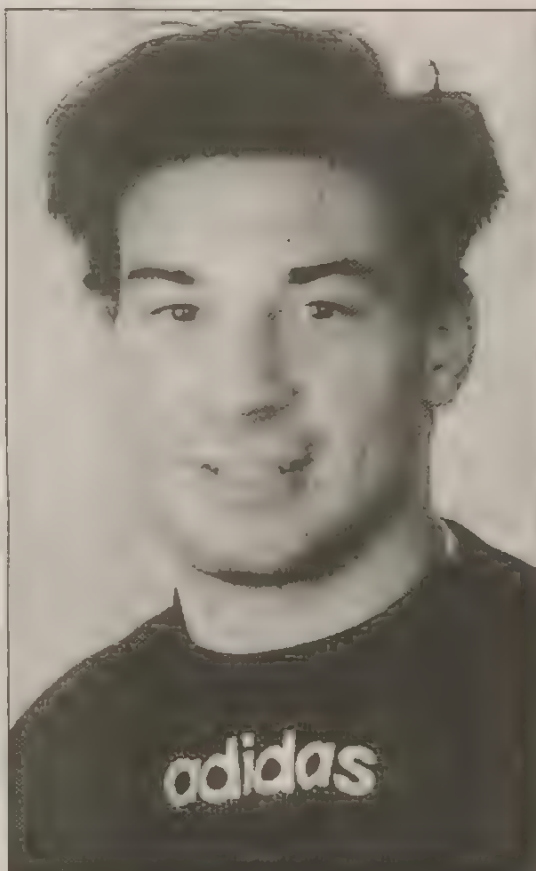
Big names in touch

Whilst no names have even been hinted at, speculation is running rife at who the club will try and sign given its commitment to success.

"We are very keen to sign a couple of overseas players," says Hodgetts, who also revealed that the club has been attracting widespread interest even at this stage.

"You'd be amazed to know some of the names who have approached us wanting to be involved with the club," he said.

The club has already appointed a European agent to deal with potential recruits, with some early speculation by the press corps that West Ham's Robbie Slater and QPR's Mark Hateley are on the UK shopping list.



Frank Juric: Instead of buying overseas players maybe Carlton can keep some of our top stars from leaving?



Robbie Slater: Will Carlton's bikkie's be big enough to bring him home?

HOME SWEET HOME FOR TOP TRIO

BY GREG BLAKE

Where a club is forced to play its Premier league finals matches can be as crucial as which teams it has to face in the play-offs.

Which is why the Victorian Premier League's 'incentive scheme' of awarding the top three finishers in the regular season at least one finals game in the three weeks leading up to the grand final should be retained.

If only for the added reward of canteen and bar sales at the

arbitrary system of arranging finals venues virtually on the eve of the series, as appeared to happen from 1992 to 1994.

The old system had meant that some clubs not even competing in the play-offs had been awarded finals games, whilst others have been severely disadvantaged in the same period.

For example, despite having finished in the top four for the past four seasons, Bulleen Lions, now out of the finals race this year, has not played a finals game at home.

Incredibly, the Lions have played in more Premier League finals games (twelve) than any other club, yet the Veneto Club's only play-off game in four years — the 1993 Preliminary Final — did not even feature Bulleen.

Last year they appeared to get it right with second-placed Altona Magic hosting the



home club's social club, but more importantly to see that the sliding scale of advantages awarded to teams down the order of ladder merit is maintained.

To this point the Victorian Soccer Federation is yet to come up with a hard and fast formula to decide Premier League play-off venues.

While maintaining some flexibility in the formula is essential that system should be weighted in favour of clubs finishing higher on the ladder.

All aspects of the successful finals series concept now deciding the championship has been largely experimental in its four years of existence.

In 1995 the VSF got it right for the first time, apparently finally ditching the seemingly



qualifying final and elimination final double-header, top side Port Melbourne coming in off the week's rest to host the second round major semi-final and minor semi-final double-header and Chaplin Reserve, home of 3rd-placed Sunshine hosting the preliminary final, despite the Georgies not getting that far in the series.

It was the first time all three top sides had hosted the lead-up play-off games going into the grand final, which is played on neutral turf.

As it should be, although there are some pressing for this year's grand final to be played at the 12,000 capacity Olympic Village ground, home of Heidelberg United, instead of Olympic Park or Lakeside Stadium.

Whilst costs involved in putting on the game are a factor, surely deciding the premiership of the season is the priority?

Barring a huge upset Heidelberg is almost certain to be one of this year's grand final teams, and whilst the possibility of home advantage in the lead-up games is a fair reward for a full season, for a grand final team to host the game would hardly seem fair.

Winning on home turf is the key to play-off appearances and Premier League success.

The only real exception to this is Port Melbourne, which has lost just three of its 38 games at home — one each year — at Anderson Reserve since joining the league in 1984 yet the Sharks have only one losing grand final to their credit.



All but two of the current Premier League teams perform substantially better at home than away, with only Bentleigh Greens of the likely top five a better team away in 1996.

It's no fluke that the top Premier League performers at home in the period since finals started in 1992 are the league's most prominent finals performers of the era.

Of the clubs hovering at around or below the 50 percent mark at home over the period since the Premier League converted to finals deciding the title, only Fawkner, which lost the 1993 grand final, has made any impact at play-off time.

If nothing else, a hard and fast system would automatically put an end to any end of season squabbling about which clubs get the plum games and why.



Setting aside the facility factor, the team finishing higher on the ladder should host whichever opponent it is scheduled to meet, or host both games in the case of a double-header.

Of course, the grounds must meet a certain minimum criteria in terms of facilities, those minimum requirements — over and above those set

down for merely playing in the league itself — to be set in stone pre-season.

A club deemed not up to scratch would forfeit its final/s to the next highest placed finisher.

There can be no better incentive for a club to come up to scratch than that.

Figures based on the home and away results of finalists from 1992 to 1994 suggests



home advantage is crucial in the August/September series.

With the struggling Premier League clubs needing every incentive available to succeed, the system of finals venues remains a critical one.

For the record, of the top five clubs destined to go to the play-offs in August, Heidelberg United, the Sunshine Georgies and Altona Magic boast the equal best record at home this year, to the end of round 22.

Heidelberg is 7-3-1 (wins-draws-losses) at Olympic Village, with Magic 8-1-2 at Paisley Park and Sunshine 8-1-2 Chaplin Reserve.

Bentleigh Greens, the finals debutants, are 6-2-3 at home and Thomastown Zebras are 7-1-3.



WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR



BRAZIL SURPRISE ALL

Brazil has surprised everyone to emerge as Olympic Games semi-finalists along with traditional powers Norway, China and USA.

Brazil, with two ninth placings in World Cup competition, were not rated as Olympic medal prospects, but now find themselves in a great position after going through the Group E matches undefeated.

But Brazil are lucky to be at the Games at all, called up to become the eighth Olympic nation when England was ruled out because they had not contested the World Cup as Great Britain.

Brazil set themselves up for success with their opening 2-2 draw against current World Champions Norway, backing up with a solid 2-0 win over Japan. A point ahead of World Cup runners-up Germany going into the last Group F match-up, Germany needed to beat Brazil to stay alive in the medal race. But Brazil was not about to let the chance slip away, scoring a draw to clinch second spot on the ladder and a berth in the Olympic semis.

Norway, after the draw with Brazil, picked themselves up to record a vital win over rivals Germany, before sealing top place in Group E with a comfortable

win over Japan.

The race in Group E was fought out as expected between home side and favourites USA and Asian superpower China. With solid wins to both on the opening day, the race was on. China then stamped its authority on the competition, sticking away five goals past Denmark in match two to gain a superior goal difference over USA to take into their clash on the last day of preliminaries.

Both assured of a semi-final berth, the match was still vital in terms of placings and semi-final opponents. USA had to win to avoid the probable semi-final clash with Norway. In the end, neither could hit the target, the coreless draw putting China in the box seat at the top of Group E.

USA will now have to overcome their ever-pressing big match rival Norway in the semi-final if they are to have a shot at the gold. USA narrowly beat Norway in the inaugural World Cup final. Norway took revenge in last year's World Cup semi, a 1-0 win taking them into the final, leaving USA to fight it out for the bronze. Now the two will meet again, with only one to appear in the final. It has all the ingredients for an emotion charged clash.

China, longtime bridesmaids of international football, now have the best chance ever to win their way to the top, with a semi-final encounter against Brazil. But Brazil with two upset results on the board will pull out all stops to continue their Olympic dream.

The Bronze playoff and Gold final will be played Friday morning 8.00am and 10.30am Australian time.

OLYMPIC GAMES 1996

Day One — Sunday July 21			
Germany	3	Japan	2
Norway	2	Brazil	2
USA	3	Denmark	0
China	2	Sweden	0
Day Two — Tuesday July 23			
Brazil	2	Japan	0
USA	2	Sweden	1
China	5	Denmark	1
Norway	2	Germany	1
Day Three — Thursday July 25			
Norway	4	Japan	0
Brazil	1	Germany	1
USA	0	China	0
Sweden	3	Denmark	1

USA IN GOOD START

Gold medal favourites USA kicked off their campaign in fine style with a solid 3-0 win over Denmark at the Citrus Bowl, Orlando.

25,000 fans turned out in the sweltering heat and humidity to cheer on the home team, and were not disappointed.

USA were in command throughout the match, setting up chance after chance in front of goal, their overall strength and team combination far too good for the Danes.

But the Americans were unable to convert their class onto the scoreboard until the 35th minute, midfielder Tisha Venturini eventually breaking the deadlock. Athletic defender Brandy Chastain sent in a dangerous long throw for Venturini to hit a volley from a difficult angle. Danish goalkeeper Dorethe Larsen got a hand to the ball but was unable to prevent the goal.

Five minutes later, the lead was doubled when forward Michelle Akers turned the provider with a long ball into the path of Mia Hamm. Taking on the Danish defence, Hamm then kept her cool to drive her shot past the advancing Larsen.

Denmark never really looked like scoring, denied possession and forced to defend throughout.

Just three minutes after the break, the match was put beyond all doubt with a 3-0 lead. Striker Tiffeny Milbrett finally got herself on the scorers list, putting away a fine strike from a Hamm cross.

USA: Briana Scurry, Carla Overbeck, Brandy Chastain, Joy Fawcett, Julie Foudy, Kristine Lilly, Tisha Venturini, Shannon MacMillan, Michelle Akers (Cindy Parlow 61), Mia Hamm (Carin Gabarra 75), Tiffeny Milbrett (Tiffany Roberts 66).

DENMARK: Dorethe Larsen, Bonnie Madsen, Kamma Flaong, Rikke Holm, Merete Federsen, Birgit Christensen, Lisbet Kolding (Annette Laursen 67), Gitte Krogh (Christina Bonde 78), Lene Madsen (Helle Jensen 46), Lene Terp, Anne Nielsen.

BRAZIL MOVE AHEAD

Brazil moved to the top of Group F last Tuesday with a 2-0 win over Japan to add to their surprise opening 2-2 draw over World Champions Norway.

Played in front of a good 15,000 crowd at Legion Field in Birmingham, Alabama, the unpredictable Brazil had to wait until the middle of the second half before posting a score on the board, in what was a match that could have gone either way.

Japan displayed the better skill on the ball and appeared the more organised as a unit. But they were unable to match the physical strength of the South Americans.

Brazil on the other hand lacked their usual fluency and touch and in fact made numerous basic errors in possession.

But Brazil regathered themselves to take the ascendancy in the lacklustre game. In the 67th minute, substitute Michael Jackson drove her shot through a crowded penalty box and the match suddenly came to life.

Japan fought on, coming ever so close with their best chance of the game when their shot beat Brazilian keeper Didi but ran

outside the far post.

Japan's disappointment was doubled with another successful strike ten minutes later taking the score to 2-0. Brazil's top goalscorer Pretinha added to her tally with a fantastic header.

BRAZIL: Didi, Nene, Fanta, Tatarel, Elane, Pretinha, Formiga, Sisi, Rosell, Tania, costa (Michael Jackson 37).

JAPAN: Junko Ozawa, Yumi Tomei, Rie Yamaki, Maki Haneta, Yumi Obe, Kae Nishina, Homare Sawa, Asako Takakura (Nami Otake 72), Eutaba Kioka, Akemi Noda, Tamaki Uchiyama.

CHINA TOO CLASSY

China showed the world what a class outfit they are with a resounding 5-1 thrashing over Denmark in their second match of the Games. The tally of goals put away by China may well bring them their first ever major championship win, winning Group E with these all important goals ahead of USA.

China were never headed, taking a 4-0 first half lead, giving the hapless Danes barely a sniff of the ball. After the break, Denmark stepped up their performance, restricting the Chinese to one for the second period and scoring a goal for themselves.

Defender Fan Yunjie opened the scoring in the ninth minute for an early Chinese lead. Sun Qingmei followed up in the 16th minute, with Liu Ailing and Shi Gujiong also hitting the back of the net in the 31st and 35th minutes respectively.

Sun Qingmei recorded her second after 76 minutes, Denmark scoring the consolation goal with ten minutes remaining.

SWEDEN WIN NORDIC CLASH

Both teams out of the running for a semi-finals berth, the Sweden versus Denmark clash on Day Three still remained a hard fought match with Nordic pride at stake.

Neither side was able to take control in an even first half, the two going into the break scoreless.

The deadlock was eventually broken with a goal to Dane Helle Jensen in the 60th minute.

The goal seemed only to fire Sweden into action as they surged forward to score a trio of goals in the space of fourteen minutes.

Sweden's equaliser was scored by veteran Lena Videkull in the 73rd minute, with Malin Swedberg snatching a pair in the 81st and 87th minutes.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

—After Group Matches—

3	Linda Medalen	Norway
3	Pretinha	Brazil
2	Shi Guihong	China
2	Ann Aarones	Norway
2	Sun Qingmei	China

SCHOOLGIRLS TO BATTLE IT OUT

The Australian Schoolgirls Championship kicks off this Sunday in the Victorian town of Geelong, with today's young emerging players having plenty to play for.

Six states will contest this year's event, and some enthralling soccer will no doubt be played over the next six days of competition.

New South Wales start again as favourites to retain the title they have won for the last three years.

But with only five players remaining from the 1995 Champion team, they may have to work hard to repeat the effort.

Leading the charge will be their three schoolgirl internationals Rochelle Doyle, Donna Marsden and Carly Copeland.

More eager than ever to

push the Blues from their mantle are the ACT outfit. Runners-up last year, they have retained the majority of that 1995 team and have perhaps their best chance ever to win the crown.

Both Queensland and Western Australia will be fielding new young squads this week but are eager for a good showing.

Northern Territory are an unknown quantity and may find the going tough in the wintry Geelong conditions.

As host State, Victoria will be determined to improve on their disappointing sixth placing of 1995.

As well as fighting for championship honours, players will be all out to prove their worth with selection in the Australian Schoolgirls their aim.

With just five of the 1995

national side contesting this year's event, there are plenty of openings for the new brigade to gain national selection.

The Australian Schoolgirls will tour Great Britain from 1-20 December

with internationals and club matches on the itinerary.

The Australian championship is being run in conjunction with the Boys' event over three Geelong venues, 4-9 August.

1996 AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLGIRL'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

SUNDAY AUGUST 9

GEELONG GRAMMAR

NT	v	VIC	— 9.15am
WA	v	ACT	— 11.00pm
NSW	v	QLD	— 2.15pm

MONDAY AUGUST 5

STEAD PARK

VIC	v	QLD	— 11.15am
WA	v	NSW	— 11.15am
NT	v	ACT	— 1.00pm

TUESDAY AUGUST 6

VIC	v	WA	— 1.45pm
NT	v	QLD	— 3.30pm
ACT	v	NSW	— 5.15pm

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7

MYERS RESERVE

NSW	v	VIC	— 9.00am
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THURSDAY AUGUST 8

MYERS RESERVE

QLD	v	WA	— 9.00am
NT	v	NSW	— 9.00am
ACT	v	VIC	— 10.45am

FRIDAY AUGUST 9

MYERS RESERVE

QLD	v	ACT	— 9.00am
NT	v	WA	— 10.45am



Anne (left) and Nina Nymark-Andersen the twins who play for Norway.



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



Chilean international striker Marcelo Salas, the highest scorer in the local league for the last two years, will continue his career with Universidad de Chile.

Spanish Second Division team, Las Palmas, who's president, Angel Tadeo, travelled to South America to sign the talented player, finally opted for Argentine forward Jose Flores, who plays for Argentine champions Velez Sarsfield.

Flores, one of the best strikers in the country, was

transferred to the Spanish club for a reported US\$4 million, and will join the squad at the end of the current Argentine soccer league first phase.

A disappointed Salas blamed Universidad's president Rene Orozco for the way he handled the failed transfer.

However, according to Orozco, there are other European clubs interested in Salas, and an agreement with one of them will be reached in the near future.

VENEZUELA WITH SOME NEW FACES

Venezuela, after its humiliating 6-1 defeat against Bolivia, in La Paz, started its build-up preparation to face Ecuador on September 1, with a 1-1 draw against Panama.

So far, the South Americans, coached by former Venezuelan international Rafael Santana, lost two matches and drew one for the 1998 World Cup qualifying rounds. In their opening match, Uruguay beat them 2-0, in Caracas, and in the second game they managed a 1-1 draw against Chile.

Santana named Alex Garcia, Jorge Giraldo, Reinaldo Melo and Daniel Noriega,

all four U/23 internationals, in his rejuvenated squad.

Venezuela's squad for the game against Ecuador, to be played in Quito is: F. Golidano, D. Rivas, L. Filosa, W. Gonzalez, E. Tortolero, J. Valiente, J. Valenilla, G. Miranda, F. Hernandez, D. McIntosh, L. Vera, C. Garcia, G. Udaneta, S. Hernandez, Reinaldo Merlo, D. Ortega, J. Giraldo and Alex Garcia.

Star striker Stalin Rivas is out injured and experienced midfielder Gerson Diaz recently married is on leave until mid August.

Boca Juniors thrash River Plate

Boca Juniors, one of the most popular clubs in Argentina, defeated arch-rival River Plate, by 4 goals to 1, in the local major derby for the Argentine soccer league second phase, Claudio Caniggia, who probably played his last match for Bilardo's team, was the star of the match.

Caniggia, who could end up playing for an English Premier league club, scored a hat-trick while former Argentine international midfielder Jose Basualdo netted the other goal.

River Plate pulled one back through striker Gabriel Amato two minutes from the end.

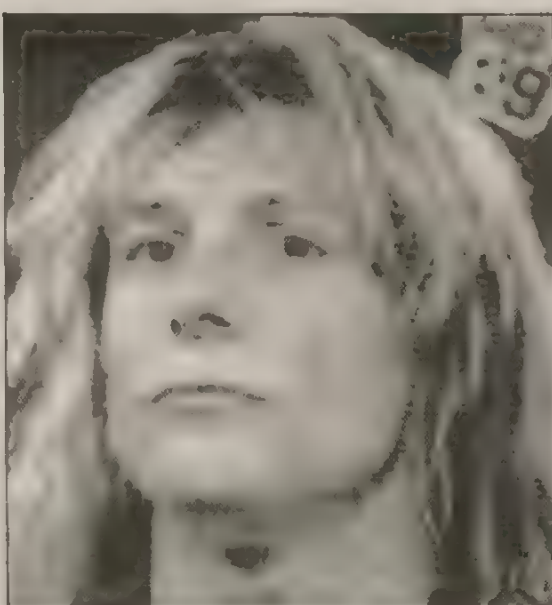
The new Libertadores Cup champions went to the game without Ariel

Ortega, Hernan Crespo, Pablo Sorin and Matias Almeyda, three of its most influential players who are involved with the Argentine Olympic team.

Boca Juniors is one point behind the leaders Lanus, who beat Estudiantes de La Plata 1-0, and Velez Sarsfield who drew 0-0 with Argentinos Juniors.

The other team in second place, Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata, thrashed Rosario Central, 4-0, with goals from Jose Alborno (2), Favio Fernandez and Uruguay defender Jose Sanguinetti.

After 16 rounds, Lanus and Velez Sarsfield are leading the competition with 33 points, followed by Gimnasia and Boca Juniors with 32 each.



Claudio Caniggia: A hat-trick farewell?

BOCA JUNIORS IN A BUYING SPREE

Big spender Boca Juniors of Argentina is looking for more players to strengthen its squad with the aim of winning the Argentine football league first phase.

Boca's president Mauricio Macri, already signed Tenerife's Argentine attacking midfielder, Fernando Latorre on loan, for US\$300,000 and will pay Inter Milan US\$3.5 million for Argentine young striker Sebastian Rambert.

Rambert wants to come back to Argentina and his decision facilitated his

transfer to Carlos Bilardo's team.

Another footballer, who is close to return to Argentina, is big defender Federico Guillermo Lussendorff, a former Rosario central player who is playing for Mexican First Division club Toros of Neza.

The Mexicans want US\$1.4 million for the defender while Boca is offering US\$1.2 million.

Other big names linked with Boca Juniors are Newell's Old Boys prolific goalscorer Ivan Cesar Gabrich, Rosario Central's

goalkeeper Roberto Abbondancieri, Independiente's Paraguayan international midfielder Roberto Acuna, and... Leeds United brilliant midfielder Gary McAllister.

Meanwhile, the possibilities of Bulgarian international star Hristo Stoichkov of playing for Boca Juniors are still open.

Stoichkov is a free agent and told Diego Armando Maradona that he is willing to play for the Argentine team.

ASIA

Ilhwa champion Afro-Asian Club

compiled by Bob Brooks

Before 65,000 in Seoul's Olympic Stadium the second leg of the Afro-Asian Club Championship was played.

Orlando Pirates a major force in South Africa were going head to head with local side Ilhwa Chunma. There is an Australian connection in that the Korean team have visited Down Under for pre-season training and were most recently here in this year.

Last week ABSW featured a team photograph of Ilhwa Chunma on the back page. For the story of the game we are indebted to AFC News — the magazine of the Asian Confederation.

Surprisingly this competition has been running for 11 years. Now that Oceania has become a Confederation then that organisation's Club Champion could be involved a three way contest with Africa and Asia — doesn't that whet your appetite?

Lee Chang Soo is the Ilhwa

coach having only recently taken over from Park Jong Hwan.

The first game in Johannesburg resulted in a stalemate 0-0.

A win by five unanswered goals may sound like a comprehensive victory — and that it was — but the most impressive thing about Ilhwa was that the margin of victory could have at least been several more.

A couple of fine reflex saves by Orlando Pirates' Nigerian keeper Williams Okpara and some glaring misses by Ilhwa's front line saved the South Africans further embarrassment.

But the most remarkable thing about Ilhwa's performance was the way Lee has built upon the success of his predecessor. So often in football a major coaching change brings upheaval and, therefore, a period of readjustment.

Not so for Ilhwa who, if anything, look even more formidable. Like many of the great clubs in world football, they have promoted from within their own ranks and

maintained the stability that has given them three successive Korean titles as well as the Asian Club Championship trophy.

Ilhwa captain Ko Jeong Woon was the on-field

Ilhwa Chunma 5 (Lee Gi Bum 32, 65, Ko Jeong Woon 45, 81, Lee Tae Hong 88). Orlando Pirates 0
Teams: Ilhwa Chunma (5-3-2): Valeri Sanychev; Gennadi Stepuchkin, Ha Sung Jun, You Bong Gi, Park Kwang Hyun, Kim Kyong Bum (Park Jong Chan 86); Lee Gi Bum (Lee Tae Hong 79), Sin Tae Yong, Han Hung Kuk; Ko Jeong Woon, Park Nam Yoel.

Orlando Pirates (4-4-2): Williams Okpara; Henry Tsotetsi, Buy Nzenge, Gavin Lane, Vincent Ngobe; Mulowayi Kazadi, John Moeti (Innocent Mwangi 82), Helman Mkhalele, Brandon Silent; Jerry Skosana (Patric Machite 82), Andries Sebola (Marks Maponyane 53).
Ilhwa win 5-0 on aggregate.

instigator of the massacre, turning Orlando captain Gavin Lane inside out, pulling him out of position and generally leading him a merry dance.

As Lane stuck close to the free-roaming Ko, so the space opened up for the Ilhwa midfield to exploit and it was something of a surprise that the Koreans took over half an hour to score the opening goal.

That came when Ko was

set free on the right before pulling the ball back to national team mate Han June Kuk whose curling cross to the far corner of the goal area was smashed home by Lee Gi Bum.

Facing a Pirates team that has given them three successive Korean titles while the Pirates looked like they had lead in their boots.

A rampant Ko doubled Ilhwa's lead on the stroke of half-time to cap a marvellous

ball through to the young striker who made no mistake with a text-book finish.

Lee was destined to miss out of the grand finale as a scything challenge from Helman Mkhalele left him with a knee injury but Ko stepped up in the 81st minute to add the fourth with another

one-on-one with Okpara. This time the Korean national striker beat the Nigerian with a fierce shot at his near post, proving beyond doubt his immense striking prowess.

Fittingly Ilhwa's fifth came from the man who put them into this game — Asian Club Championship final

goalscorer Lee Tae Hong.

Lee, making a late appearance as a substitute, was set up in space on the edge of the penalty area by the mercurial Ko before seeing his deflected shot wrong-foot Okpara and ripple the Pirates' net.



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THE SEASON IN PREVIEW

By Micky Brock and Stuart Jones

The new season is almost upon us and as ever we produce our thoughts as to who, we believe, is going to do what in 1996-97, as we take another irreverent pre-season look. With some players not yet signed by clubs, our job isn't easy but we hope you have a few laughs along the way.

NATIONWIDE DIVISION THREE

BARNET: Just missed out on a play-off berth last term when finishing in 9th spot on the table. Ray Clemence has done a fine job since their financial problems came to light. Built a decent platform to do better this term perhaps? The smallest of the North London sides but hoping not for much longer.

Last season finished 9th. This term: MB — 8th SJ — 6th.

BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION: Another club with dire financial problems, when Liam Brady was manager he said, "We've money to pay wages but not buy players." Amid rumour of groundsharing with Portsmouth, some 50 miles away, the Goldstone Ground is supposedly to be sold to stem "unsustainable mounting debts." We're even linked with sharing non-league Crawley Town's pitch. Things could look brighter if the Liam Brady led consortium is successful. Relegated from Division Two last term, will stay in Division Three.

Last Season: 23rd in Div 2. This term: MB — 20th SJ — 21st.

CAMBRIDGE UTD: Disappointing season last time out where local non-league rivals Cambridge City also struggled to make a decent showing. United can do better but probably not this season with a lack of funds and decent facilities. Home to Barnet in first league match.

Last season: 16th. This term: MB — 13th SJ — 12th.

CARDIFF CITY: Business as usual last term and finished lowest of all Welsh sides, mainly because they were the only Welsh club in division Three. With an influx of new players they

should improve this season but could take a while longer. Away to Scarborough in the opening match which should see them off to a winning start, which would see former Carlisle manager Mick Wadsworth up against his former custodian at the Blues Tony Elliott.

Last season: 22nd. This term: MB — 17th SJ — 17th.

CARISLE UTD: Disappointing season for the Blues after winning division three the previous season with

former 80's Everton star Kevin Ratcliffe, if he keeps his job! Led for the first 12 weeks of the term but finally missed out on a play-off spot due to indifferent form, i.e. they kept losing! Always thereabouts at the end of the day.

Last season: 8th. This term: MB — 10th SJ — 2nd.

COLCHESTER UNITED: Finished one spot above Chester last time out and made the play-offs with a terrific run at the end of the term. The Layer Road faithful have always been there for a club that seems to go close without actually doing the business. As with all teams, need to invest in some players to help lone striker Mark Kinsella up front.

Last season: 7th. This term: MB — 9th SJ — 10th.

DARLINGTON: So near but yet so far for Darlo. The perennial whipping boys



Ray Clemence: Has done a fine job at Barnet.

some style to say the least. Chairman Michael Knighton has said the ten year plan is now dead and the aim is just to keep the club financially sound. Even so with three new players on board and the majority of the previous championship side still at Brunton, Carlisle should do well this term... unless of course they make another unusual transfer decision like that of Derek Mountfield and Paul Murray.

Last season: 21st in Div 2 (unfairly according to Jonesy as York played after the seasons end)! MB — 2nd SJ — 3rd (I'm not biased)!

CHESTER CITY: Lovely little Roman Town, shame their football isn't up to Serie A standard. Big Cyrille Regis is almost old enough to have played in that era but will make an impact for the side this term if he isn't sold off by

(except under Alan Little) finally 'done good' last term. Just missed out on promotion because play-off expert Neil Warnock got his Plymouth side through at Wembley at their expense. Have announced a huge indoor sports centre next to Feethams to be built this year alongside the upgrading of their home ground, on the back of the success last year. Will hopefully bring further success this season so that Darlington won't just be another stop on the way to Edinburgh by train!

Last season: 5th. This term: MB — 7th SJ — 7th.

DONCASTER ROVERS: Sammy Chung continues to manage a side with players better suited to running on the Horse Racing track next door (according to some). Another disappointing term last year, dogged with controversy, this

season may see a repeat performance. Local Yorkshire rivals are continuing to progress slowly and this has been detrimental to the furtherment of the Rovers.

Last season: 13th. This term: MB — 18th SJ — 15th.

EXETER CITY: Well miffed with Plymouth going straight back up again but their season was exceptional under Peter Fox after the trials of the previous term. He continues to be a strength between the sticks and by the almighty don't they need it!

Last season: 14th. This term: MB — 109th SJ — 20th.

FULHAM: Another devastating season for a club with such an illustrious past. Stars like Duncan Jupp continue to be transferred to pay the bills and the saga of Craven Cottage goes on, will it be sold? Perhaps a move to the Putney Bridge site is on the cards where their loyal supporters can all jump off along with Chairman Jimmy Hill if this season goes the same way. If Rodney Marsh, George Best and Johnny Haynes were still in the side, they would do a lot better... even though they're all around fifty these days! As Jimmy would say: "Chin up boys."

Last season: 17th. This term: MB — 22nd SJ — 11th.

HARTLEPOOL UTD: The north east side, aka "the sleeping giants of English football," should have a spectacular season, just like all other sides from the region. Unfortunately reality beckons and it will prove yet another struggle for a club strapped for cash (how unusual). Happy in this Division it seems and in no hurry to leave.

Last season: 20th. This term: MB — 23rd SJ — 19th.

HEREFORD UTD: A great season under former Wolves manager Graham Turner. A small club on the Welsh border, with the support to match. Contrary to popular belief, you are not treated like cattle at Edgar Street, that's a Load of Bull (which happens to be the name of their fanzine). A surprise packet last term when making the play-offs but this year won't see the other teams taking them for granted as in previous times. It will be harder to repeat that success this season but if anyone can do it, a Turner Ted side could!

Last season: 6th. This term: MB — 11th SJ — 8th.

HULL CITY: An awful season, even by their standards. It began badly and was followed by a steep decline in form before finally tapering off at the end! Have trouble buying produce from

the shopping centre they share which is actually part of their main stand, let alone any new players. After losing Dean Windass to Aberdeen halfway through last season, this year looks to be another titanic struggle, both against the other clubs and the financiers. Won a mere 5 matches in Div 2 last term, must do better and fast!

Last season: 24th in Div 2. This term: MB — 16th SJ — 22nd.

LEYTON ORIENT: Barry Hearn said his side would go much better last season. With so much optimism in the air, the first game at home was delayed by 15 minutes to allow the crowd in. However, in the Chairman's better known field, you could only describe last season as a TKO. This year will see Alvin Martin and Les Sealey joining from West Ham and rumour has it former Arsenal player Paul Davis may make his way to Brisbane Road too. Except better things from a great little East London club.

fairness and should do reasonably well this term for a club that usually struggles in the football league.

Last season: 18th. This term: MB — 12th SJ — 14th.

MANSFIELD TOWN: The Stags hail from a large town in north Nottinghamshire and are always thereabouts before falling away when crunch time comes. Struggles from supporter drain to the Nottingham sides, especially as Forest are now back in the Premiership. Never a great side but never really a poor one either. Great little battlers, the first home match sees them pitted against the lads from St James Park... no not Newcastle but Exeter City!

Last season: 19th. This term: MB — 6th SJ — 13th.

NORTHAMPTON TOWN: Around this time of year the pundits trot out the favourite "load of old Cobblers" pun on the club nickname so we've decided not to do that! Last season saw nearly as much success at the club as when the legendary



Liam Brady: Leading a consortium to keep Brighton in Brighton.

Last season: 21st. This term: MB — 3rd SJ — 4th.

LINCOLN CITY: Another season of neck braces for the Imps faithful as John Beck's unique brand of football continues to take off, onwards and upwards. He's turned the club around in all

Herbert Chapman was there and took them to the Southern League title of 1909.

Last season: This term: MB — SG — 16th.

ROCHDALE: Were very consistent last term in having a very inconsistent season. Like Bury, they share their

ground with the local Rugby League side and if they don't have equal success this year, the crowds could start turning to Super League and not their campaign for the Premiership one.

Last season: 15th. This term: MB — 14th SJ — 18th.

SCARBOROUGH UNITED: Riddled with debt, the club have taken on former Carlisle manager Mick Wadsworth and former Sunderland/Carlisle player Gary Bennett as player/coach in an effort to turn things around. Having to spend money on ground improvements instead of players, it won't be a picnic by the sea for anyone.

Last season: 23rd. This term: MB — 21st SJ — 23rd.

SCUNTHORPE UNITED: Disappointing year for a side with a ground that should be gracing higher league football and visiting supporters. Let in almost as many goals as they scored, will need to fix a leaky defence. Winning more games at home would be of enormous help. Should do better, if not, it's all hands to the pumps!

Last season: 12th. This term: MB — 4th SJ — 9th.

SWANSEA CITY: Former Liverpool stalwart Jan Molby took over the side last term and brought in some new faces when the side was bottom of the league by a considerable margin, except for Hull City that is. Built a strong platform for success and the bookies have them as strong favourites for the title this time out.

Last season: 22nd in 2nd Div. This term: MB — champs SJ — likewise.

TORQUAY UNITED: Pathetic season is the nicest you could say and their woes are perhaps not yet over as Stevenage Borough, champions of the Vauxhall Conference, continue their appeal in the courts to enter the Football League in Torquay's place (only disallowed because of ground status and regulations). Another poor season envisaged.

Last season: 24th. This term: MB — Rock bottom again SJ — and again.

WIGAN ATHLETIC: Played hard, done good with their foreign flavour last term, further squad improvements could see Athletic as the dark horses for the title. However, Springfield Park has yet to build the aura of Central Park, home of rugby League giants and former World Club Champions Wigan. In a tough competition for supporters cash.

Last season: 10th. This term: MB — 5th SJ — 5th.

SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE



ALBION ROVERS: Finished 1995-96 with the abysmal record of P36 W7 D8 L21 F37 A74 Pts 29. The bright side is they cannot get any worse in terms of a lower position. "Nuff said, really!" First match of the year has them at home to relegated Forfar Athletic, a tough opener indeed.

Last season: bottom div 3. This term: MB — 9th SJ — 9th.

ALLOA ATHLETIC: Only managed to win once when scoring just 8 goals in eighteen games away from home last season. In fact, they only managed to knock in 18 league goals all season! Finished above Albion Rovers on goal difference believe it or not. A turn around not expected.

Last season: 9th. This term: MB — 10th SJ — 10th.

ARBROATH: A consistent season for a mid-table side over the previous season. Never really threatening but never in trouble either. Scored exactly as many as they conceded, 41, and a tighter defence could see them challenging for promotion.

Last season: 5th. This term: MB — 6th SJ — 4th.

CALEDONIAN THISTLE (I C Thistle): An excellent year when finishing in third spot. Away form was good but dropped too many silly points at home. Expect a far better showing this time out. If they stop the internal squabbling between the former Inverness rivals. Can do better.

Last season: 3rd. This term: MB — 5th SJ — 6th.

COWDENBEATH: A season of heartbreak and despair for their long suffering fans as another disappointing showing ensued. Hard to see how they can make any inroads this term. Away form was dire and at home wasn't too brilliant. One thing in their favour was that they did improve by one spot on their previous seasons result.

Last season: 8th. This term: MB — 8th SJ — 8th.

EAST STIRLING: A lower half finish was a disappointment for the side that fought for promotion the previous term. Didn't use that as a springboard to reach Division 2 but perhaps this is the year?

Last season: 7th. This term: MB — 4th SJ — 7th.

FORFAR ATHLETIC: Relegated from the 2nd Division by a couple of points last time out and will want to return at the first attempt. Should certainly be good enough to do so. Were champions of Division Three in 94-95 and a lot was expected that didn't eventuate. Their fans will be hoping that history doesn't repeat itself too soon.

Last season: 9th in Div 2. This term: MB — 2nd SJ — 1st.

MONTROSE: Relegated along with Forfar last term when finishing bottom of the

2nd division by some 20 points! Scored just 33 goals in 36 league matches. They were truly whipped and could suffer badly because of it.

Last season: Bottom of the 2nd Div. This term: MB — 7th SJ — 5th.

QUEENS PARK: Like their namesakes QPR in England struggled... before coming good last term, unlike QPR who were eventually relegated. A reasonable start this season could see quite an improvement in fortunes for a very historical club, that has included English FA Cup appearances in the late 1800s.

Last season: 6th. This term: MB — 1st SJ — 3rd.

ROSS COUNTY: County could well be the performers of the Highland sides in coming years and a sound start last term set them up for a reasonable position. Would have been disappointed to finish behind Caledonian Thistle and also by missing out on promotion. Could fare better this term but only time will tell.

Last season: 4th. This term: MB — 3rd SJ — 1st.

spot. However there is some doubt as to their ability to pull themselves out of trouble if they start poorly again. Another club looking to build financial stability off the field before the on field promotion bids can really go full throttle.

Last season: 14th. This term: MB — 23rd SJ — 17th.

BRENTFORD: Disappointment for Manager Dave Webb after the previous season when coming so close to promotion. Webby will not want a repeat of last term this time around, however financial restrictions could mean a real lack of progress for the club. On a sad note, last season saw the death of media officer and Australian Bees supporters club patron Eric White who was a real gentleman and a fine ambassador for the club, he will be sorely missed by all.

Last season: 15th. This term: MB — 13th SJ — 11th.

BRISTOL CITY: Paul Agostino has certainly made his mark in Australia through the off season, but it is now his task, along with fellow Aussie striker David Seal, to

poor start this time around will probably be much more costly in Division Two. Football in the area is really on a high at the moment and Bury will certainly want to be a part of that.

Last season: 3rd Div Three. This term: MB — 24th SJ — 21st.

CHESTERFIELD: About as exciting as watching the pitch markings dry even though they had a creditable season last time out. In fact the pundits had it wrong saying Carlisle would do well as they would show far more consistency in a higher league than fans of crooked spire fame. They will continue to struggle to hold onto their young starlets who have drawn the attention of the big club's scouts and if the Spireites continue to succeed, they could well lose some of those players. It would be seen as a boon to repeat last season's efforts.

Last season: 7th. This term: MB — 9th SJ — 9th.

CREW ALEXANDRA: A great season for the Railwaymen under Dario Grady ended in glorious defeat as the side fell away from automatic promotion and then failed in the play-offs. Again the academy of young players will be sought after by the big boys, however the promise of Division One football next season could be enough to keep the team together. Last season: 5th. This term: MB — 5th SJ — 3rd.

GILLINGHAM: For a team so close to oblivion the previous year, did remarkably well last term for the only representative of Kentish football within the league. The knitting together of young talent and wise old heads saw a major turn around for the club but the question remains: "can they continue this in a higher league"? All Gills fans hope so. Last season: 2nd in Div Three. This term: MB — 19th SJ — 19th.

LUTON TOWN: Took no delight in watching Watford go down as they suffered the same fate along with them! Sold their best players to meet ground refurbishments (apparently)? and have no cash for adequate replacements. Cannot improve or enlarge the ground without buying the railway lines next door and the indoor stadium went south like the club. Another season of struggle ahead. Last season: 24th in Div One. This term: MB — 16th SJ — 5th.

MILLWALL: Nice ground considering the state of former HQ in Cold Blow Lane. If they're top of the league at Christmas, they could well be relegated again next term! Young Aussie Lucas Neill is at the club, joining fellow countryman Jas Van Blerk. Big things are expected, and should transpire, this term. Last season: 22nd in Div One. This term: MB — Champions SJ — Top Lion.

NOTTS COUNTY: The Magpies flew high for a while but eventually came home to roost in the 2nd Division after play-off sadness. Have the platform to do better this time out but the impetus may be lacking early on. Like Mansfield Town, live in the shadow of rivals Forest, whose ground can be seen from Meadow Lane, and long to meet them again in the Premiership as soon as possible. Last Season: 4th. This term: MB — 3rd SJ — 6th.

PETERBOROUGH UNITED: Posh by name but

unfortunately not so classy by nature. New owner manager Barry Fry will somehow find a way to bring in new players, even if there is no money to spend. Will it be another scenario like Southend and Barnet, where success flowed, or will it be a bum steer like Birmingham City and Fisher Athletic? Last season: 19th. This term: MB — SJ — 13th.

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE: Manager Neil Warnock waved his magic play-off wand again as Argyle returned to the 2nd Division at the first time of asking. Should have enough quality players to consolidate in the division this time although the question remains about the depth of the squad. If the wand works again this term and a play-off spot is gained, expect further lofty heights to be attained. Last season: 4th in 3rd Div. This term: MB — 17th SJ — 14th.

PRESTON NORTH END: John Beck's former assistant at Cambridge and here at North End, is now the boss. Has done a great job in adapting their football into a more flowing style which has brought about its just rewards. The current crop of players are looking to emulate those of the past, some of whom feature in the new "History of Football Museum" at the ground. One suspects they may not be up to the task but with an aggregate support of 7-8,000 last year, the extra cash could well bring in some noted faces. Last season: champions Div 3. This term: MB — 22nd SJ — 15th.

ROTHERHAM UNITED: Hoping to remove the numbers from the front of their shirts this time out (done in order to make it look as though they were attacking last term) but have a good keeper in Matthew Clarke, if they can keep him at Millmoor. Nothing exceptional expected on the near horizon so avoiding the drop would be declared a fine season Last season: 16th. This term: MB — 20th SJ — 20.

SHREWSBURY TOWN: Poor showing after consolidating their standing of the previous season. Nice ground by the river but after some of the performances during 1995-96, many Shrews fans thought about becoming Lemmings and diving in! Like Hereford, they are constantly confused with being a Welsh side which probably confuses some of the players. Another average season in prospect. Last season: 18th. This term: MB — 18th SJ — 21st.

STOCKPORT COUNTY: Missed out on a play-off berth by a whisker last term but this could be seen as a blessing in disguise with regards their previous play-off campaigns in Division Two. Great supporters and one of the best fanzines doing the rounds "The Tea Party." definite play-off contenders this season. Last season: 9th. This term: MB — 6th SJ — 10th.

WALSALL: Consolidated their position after flirting with relegation. Will do well to survive against some of the bigger spending clubs of the division. Mid-table would be the aim at the start of the term and anything above that would be a bonus. Small market town on edge of Birmingham conurbation, with supporter base to match. Lovely modern ground that looks like a warehouse! Last season: 11th. This term: MB — 11th SJ — 23rd.

WATFORD: The phrase "Mad as a Hatter" applied last time out as relegation snapped up Luton and then swallowed this club too. Graham Taylor

has taken the move upstairs and its now time for the players to prove they really are good enough to be in Division One. Of all the relegated clubs, The Hornets may find the supporter pressure too much to bear and their "rebound campaign" could well end in tatters. A hard struggle envisaged. Last season: 23rd in Div One. This term: MB — 7th SJ — 7th.

WREXHAM: The Racecourse Ground has seen better days but the team are probably the best of the Welsh sides in the English leagues. Had a very reasonable season when finishing just two points out of the play-offs places but as ever, money will be a huge factor in how well they go this term as will the support of the locals. Last season: 8th. This term: MB — 2nd SJ — 12th.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Alan Smith, former Crystal Palace manager, may well be upset at not continuing the rise of this former non-league club. Would certainly be looking to impose his style on the Buckinghamshire side this season and at the very least make one of the play-offs spots if automatic promotion proves beyond them. Last season: 12th. This term: MB — 12th SJ — 4th.

YORK CITY: Very fortunate to have survived the drop last term. Alan Little, brother of Aston Villa Manager Brian, doesn't have that much cash to improve the side. This will mean yet another year of struggle for this delightful city's club side. Need to replace the goal scoring machine of Paul Barnes otherwise the purchase of some cheap parachutes may be in order. Last season: 20th. This term: MB — 24th SJ — 18th.

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO



AYR UNITED: Mid-table performance has earned them the right to stay in the division, for this term at least, after being relegated from the 1st division in 1995. Would have wanted a quick return but it wasn't to be. Could well be another year of torment. Last season: 6th. This term: MB — 4th SJ — 7th.

BERWICK RANGERS: Missed out on promotion by a 7 point margin when finishing 3rd, some 11 points clear of fourth placed Stenhousemuir. Have been up the top of the table in the last three seasons but rarely threaten to actually gain promotion. Will again repeat this performance. As you all know, this is the only English club to play in Scotland so we won't bother telling you again. Last season: 3rd. This term: MB — 3rd SJ — 4th.

BRECHIN CITY: Have been promoted after the battle royale with Livingston saw them finish runners up in the third division last season. Could struggle against the better quality teams of the second, as they did in 1994 when they came bottom of the old Division Two. Last Season: 2nd in Div Three.

This term: MB — 9th SJ — 10th (see ya lads).

CLYDE: Famous Glasgow club next to the river, former Arsenal and Celtic star Charlie Nicholas spent last year with them but has said he will not play for them this term as "my heart isn't in the club and if I'm not enjoying my football, it's not fair to the side as I cannot give them 100%. They play in their wonderful new Cumbernauld Stadium and are looking for a team to perform in it... other than the away side that is! Could be a good season for the lads. Last Season: 5th. This term: MB — 7th SJ — 2nd.

DUMBARTON: Had an unhappy time in Division One last season, finishing rock bottom, with a mere 11 points from 36 games. Will be looking to turn things around and expect a quick return. Financially they will suffer from the drop and may have to look at part time football if things do not start off well. Last season: 10th in Division One. This term: MB — 2nd SJ — 3rd.

HAMILTON: The Accies dropped from Division One as well and may have less success in bouncing straight back up. Apart from their nickname, there is not much famous about this side and a mid table finish may be all that they get — instead they will be looking for money spinning Cup runs to fill the coffers. Last season: 9th in Division One. This term: MB — 1st SJ — 5th.

LIVINGSTON: A great season under their new name proved that maybe the board of the club actually knew what they were doing when moving away from Meadowbank. Of course a name does not make a great side and it will be very interesting to watch their progress this time around. Definitely one to watch for in the future. Last season: 1st in Division Three. This term: MB — 6th SJ — 1st.

QUEEN OF THE SOUTH: Up and down more times than a fiddlers elbow during a concert, South actually managed to stay in Division Two this season by way of a change. Will be looking to repeat that but may find it very difficult. Lovely little club but in dire need of finances, just like every small club in every league you can think of. Last season: 6th. This term: MB — 8th SJ — 8th.

STENHOUSEMUIR: Would be disappointed with last season after promising so much over the last few. Will be looking to be more consistent. Stopping the losses away from home, whilst turning the home draws into wins would be a start but they have a knack of turning 3 points into one. Last season: 4th. This term: MB — 5th SJ — 6th.

STRANRAER: Just avoided relegation by two points. Will be fighting to avoid it again this year, and could find the battle too much second time around. Then again Stranraer are used to being in the lower leagues anyway! Their last 45 seasons have been notable for nothing but their mediocrity, punctuated only by the 1994 Division Two title win (first and only title to date, bless 'em). Last season: 8th. This term MB — 9th SJ — 10th.



Alvin Martin: Will be making the short trip from West Ham to Leyton.

NATIONWIDE DIVISION TWO



BLACKPOOL: While the former Chairman of Blackpool is enjoying the company of staying at Her Majesty's pleasure, his wife has taken over the club. The first to go was manager Sam Allardyce and former Norwich boss Gary Megson has taken charge. They could do well for the club but they still need players of the calibre of Matthews and Ball back there. Would have been disappointed last season at not gaining an automatic promotion spot after leading much of the season, and that disappointment would have been further added to with failure in the play-offs.

Last season: 3rd. This term: MB — 4th SJ — 2nd.

AFC BOURNEMOUTH: After a poor start, yet again, the club pulled themselves out of trouble and had a mid table finish. If they perform better at the beginning of the season, could be battling for a play-off

perform week in, week out for his club side. The side is another to struggle financially (name one that isn't) and may be affected by rivals Rovers return to Bristol, after years spent at Twerton Park, home of Bath City.

Last season: 13th. This term: MB — 15th SJ — 16th.

BRISTOL ROVERS: Should be plying their trade at Bristol Rugby club's ground this season as long as the protracted negotiations have a successful outcome. This will certainly help the club's identity as well as their finances. On the field they have lost starlet Marcus Stewart to Huddersfield and this will have an impact on the team's strike rate.

Last season: 10th. This term: MB — 8th SJ — 8th.

BURNLEY: Great support for a once great club that really struggled last season. Not enjoying Blackburn's success and nearly suffered the indignity of relegation to the lowest division. The manager got out after receiving death threats, but police ruled out the club pics as being the suspected weapon when stating: "they are always this bad." Turf Moor will be one of the great grounds in the Division once complete.

Last season: 17th. This term: MB — 10th DSJ — 22nd (bye bye)!!

BURY: After a horrendous start last season they certainly came home with a wet sail and took the third automatic promotion spot. Will look for consolidation this season but a

UK STORIES

Shearer back at Ewood Park

Blackburn striker Alan Shearer is to have talks with his club to get to the bottom of speculation in the English press that he is on the verge of quitting Ewood Park.

Shearer has been on holiday in the Bahamas and has not seen much of the media attention linking him with Manchester United, Newcastle and several Italian clubs.

"Since returning from holiday, I have been made aware of some newspaper stories of the past two or three weeks and will doubtless have a chat with Chairman Robert Coar when I return to training at the end

of the week to find out the reality behind the headlines," he said last week.

Shearer will resume pre-season training on Friday, an exact calendar month after England's elimination from Euro 96 as proposed by the club on the eve of the championships.

"I will probably just loosen up on Friday and return to full training from Monday onwards.

I have been keeping myself fairly fit swimming and jogging on the beach."

"I have never been a great pre-season trainer, so the idea of starting a few days late seems a good one to me," he joked.



Alan Shearer: The Rover returns to wild speculation about his future.

Francis (G) gets his target

Danish midfielder Allan Nielsen has signed a four-year, \$A3.26 million contract with English premier league club Tottenham, his Copenhagen club Brondby said last week.

Nielsen, 25, capped five times for the national team, was a member of Denmark's 22-man squad at

the European Championship.

"I tried to sign him last season but Brondby were having such a successful run in the UEFA Cup, during which they beat Liverpool," Tottenham manager Gerry Francis said in London.

"He will be a great addition to our squad."

Brum sign additional striker

Birmingham City manager Trevor Francis signed Blackburn Rovers striker Mike Newell (right) to a three-year contract for \$A1.5 million the fifth player signed from the Premiership this summer.

Newell joins Steve Bruce, Barry Horne, Gary Ablett and Paul Furlong.

The striker will form a new-look strike force with former Chelsea forward Furlong next season.

"I think that I now have a great strike force," said Francis in the wake of the signing.



Mike Newell: Joins the Blues in effort to lift them to Premier League.

Ian Rush — Leeds captain

Ian Rush will wear the captain's armband when he begins his new career with Leeds next season.

The 34-year-old Wales striking legend, who moved to Elland Road on a free transfer from Liverpool earlier in the summer, has been made team skipper, with Carlton Palmer becoming club captain after Gary McAllister's shock departure for Coventry (see story this page).

Scotland captain McAllister's decision to jump

ship yesterday for the calmer waters of Highfield Road has left Elland Road fans stunned.

Leeds is currently the subject of a High Court battle, with vice-chairman Peter Gilman seeking an injunction to prevent fellow directors Leslie Silver and Bill Fotherby selling their shares to the Caspian Group.

Manager Howard Wilkinson has no doubt it was the cloud of uncertainty hanging over the club that stung 31-year-old McAllister into handing in the transfer request which opened the door for Coventry.

Only last week, McAllister was reported to have declared that he would remain at Elland Road for as long as the club wanted him. Wilkinson refused to condemn McAllister for his decision to leave, but he did observe, "Football is going through a terrific amount of change."

"People are paying \$A14.8 million) for players and giving them \$A39,450 a week, it's going crazy and players and their representatives are aware of that."

McAllister's arrival at Highfield Road, where he will once again link up with former Leeds team-mate Gordon Strachan, will take manager Atkinson's spending to close to the \$A30 million in the 17 months since he took over the reins.

McAllister is Atkinson's second major acquisition of the summer, with Northern Ireland winger Michael O'Neill joining from Hibernian for \$A986,000 last week.



Ian Rush: Great responsibility thrust onto his shoulders.

Ravanelli buoyant

Premier league Middlesbrough flew to Malaysia for a pre-season tour buoyed by new signing Fabrizio Ravanelli's belief that the club could make it into European competition.

The costly striker, believes Middlesbrough can look to Parma in Italy for ambitious inspiration.

Ravanelli recalled the rise of Parma, the unfashionable club who progressed from modest status to European success in a matter of seasons.

"I was impressed with the signings of players like Juninho and Emerson and then I listened to what was said and I thought how Parma have become successful."

Coventry sign skipper

Scotland captain Gary McAllister is set to make a surprise move from Leeds to Coventry City for \$A5.9 million.

McAllister, 31, travelled to Coventry to agree personal terms after the Leeds board accepted a written transfer request.

McAllister's defection comes amid tension at Leeds where three directors are battling for control of the club.

Venables hands over to Hoddle



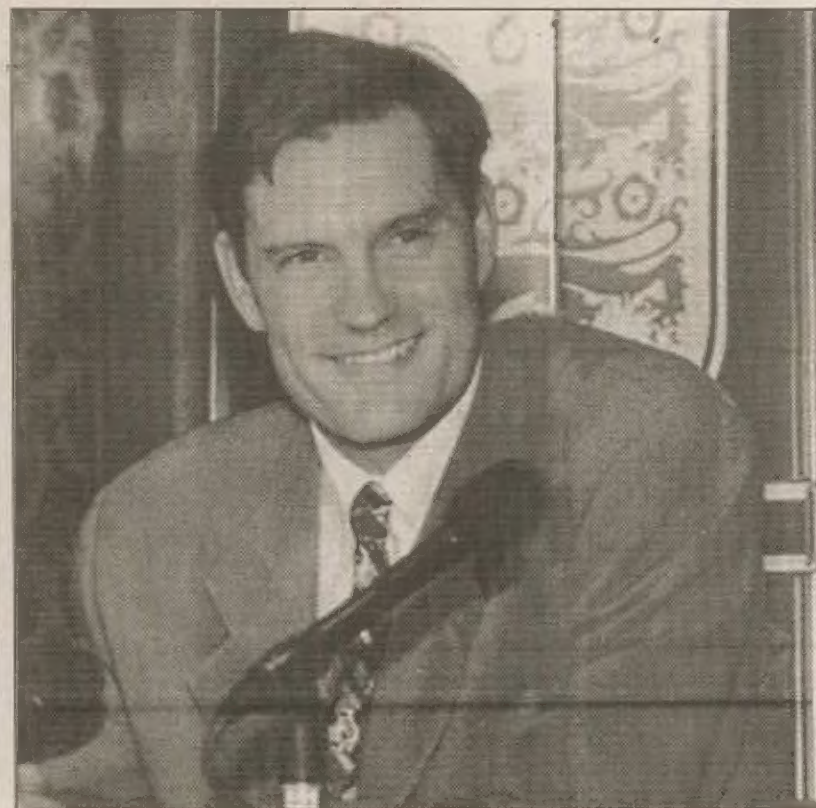
Terry Venables: Goes out with his head held high.

Glenn Hoddle has taken over the mantle of England coach, or manager, from Terry Venables. Venables' England surprised most pundits by reaching the Euro 96 Semi Finals.

According to statisticians England actually out attacked Germany but the home side were unable to convert all their advantage into enough goals.

It will be Hoddle's task to build on the impetus built up by Venables in order to take England to France 98.

The photos were taken at the News Conference was an unofficial handing over ceremony.



Glenn Hoddle: Will be expected to ensure England are at France 98.

Vale Jock Wallace — Rangers



Scottish soccer is mourning the death of former Rangers manager Jock Wallace at the age of 60. He had been suffering from Parkinson's Disease.

Wallace, a former goalkeeper, guided Rangers during a

highly successful period in the mid-1970s and had a second spell in charge from 1983-86. He was succeeded by Graeme Souness.

Ironically, in 1967, Wallace was the goalkeeper for Berwick Rangers as the club from the English border town inflicted the most famous upset in Scottish Cup history, a 1-0 first round victory over a Rangers side that reached the European Cup Winners' Cup final later that season.

QUEENSLAND XXXX LEAGUE

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